

Disaster day' defeats for government on Finance Bill

Government was defeated in committee last night on amendments to the Finance Bill. The bill, which has the effect of giving taxpayers relief amounting to £450m a year, came at a day during which, our Political pundit writes, the Government was seen unable any longer to command a majority Commons for its measures.

Mr Healey's Budget plans in disarray

Mr Healey's Budget plans in disarray. The Government's position on the Finance Bill is in a state of confusion. The bill, which has the effect of giving taxpayers relief amounting to £450m a year, came at a day during which, our Political pundit writes, the Government was seen unable any longer to command a majority Commons for its measures.

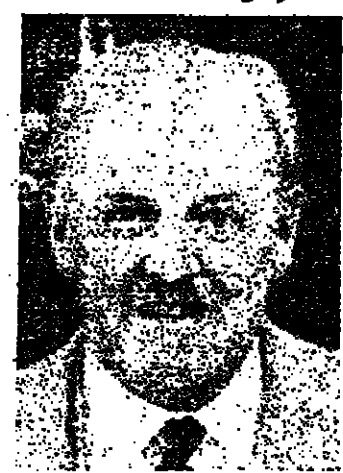
Ministers to be briefed in new drive for exports

Ministers to be briefed in new drive for exports. The Government is launching a new drive to increase exports, with ministers to be briefed on the matter.

Don suspected of key role in changing Cambridge undergraduates into Soviet agents

Fourth man in inquiry on Philby, Burgess and Maclean

Don suspected of key role in changing Cambridge undergraduates into Soviet agents. The fourth man in the inquiry into the Cambridge spy ring is Donald Beves, a former Cambridge undergraduate who was suspected of playing a key role in the recruitment of Philby, Burgess and Maclean.

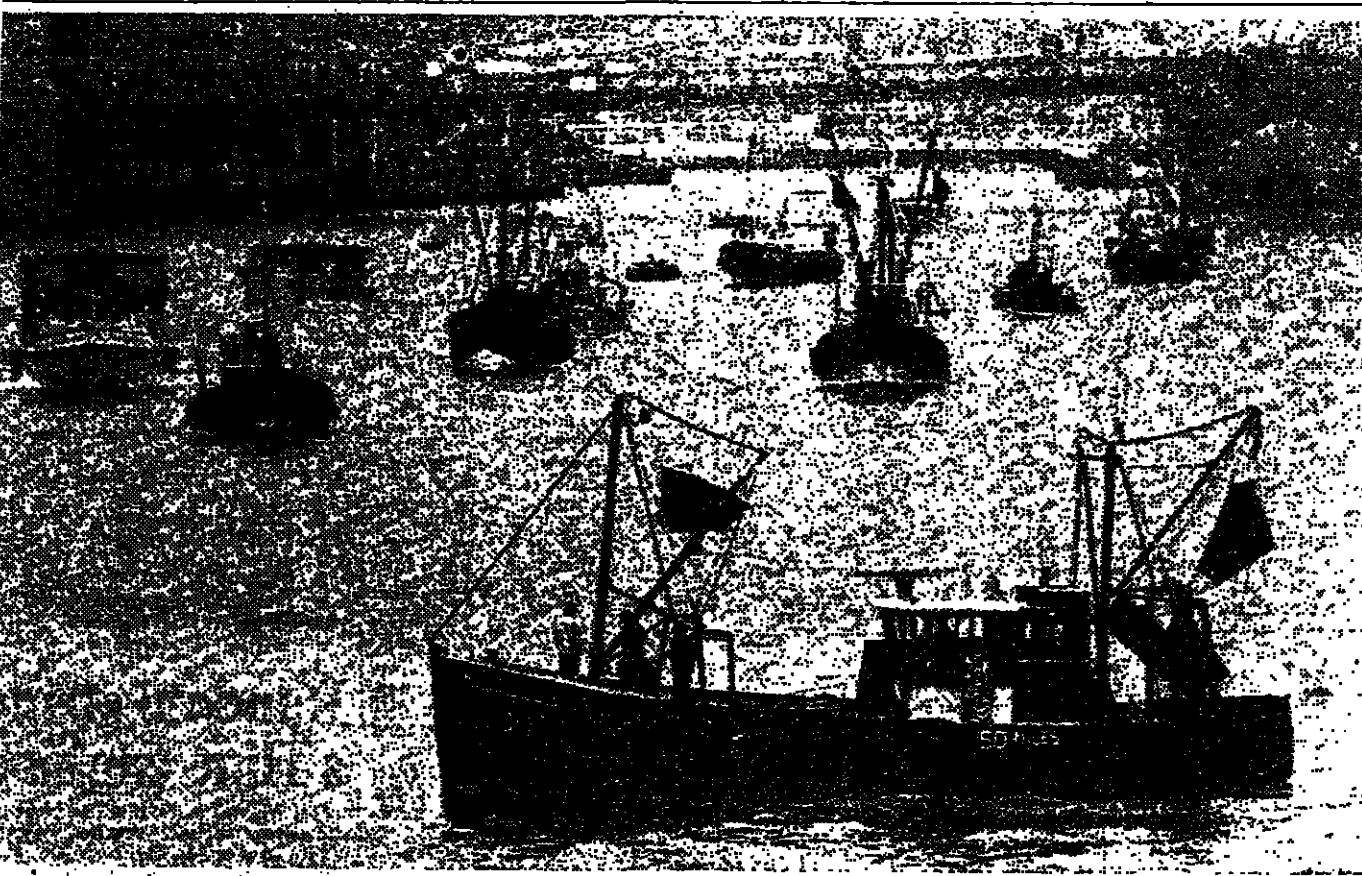


Donald Beves, a beloved Cambridge figure.

of the Marlowe Society and the social circles that revolved around the theatrical side of Cambridge life. A famous giver of parties, ubiquitous and much loved, he was known as the old-fashioned type of unmarried man who devoted all his energies to his pupils, his friends and his extensive collection of eighteenth-century glassware.

Government shares in BP offered at 845p

Government shares in BP offered at 845p. The Bank of England announced last night that it was offering shares in BP at 845p.



Vessels protesting about fishing limits in the Pool of London yesterday. (Report, page 2).

Children damaged by vaccine to get aid

Children damaged by vaccine to get aid. The Government has agreed to pay compensation for children seriously injured by vaccination.

US ready to stop flights to Britain

US ready to stop flights to Britain. The Americans are threatening to stop flights to Britain unless the British government agrees to certain conditions.

£1m stolen paintings recovered by Yard

£1m stolen paintings recovered by Yard. The Yard has recovered £1m worth of stolen paintings.

ican writer oned KGB

ican writer oned KGB. A report on the activities of a writer who has been linked to the KGB.

Compromise clears way for Commonwealth Games

Compromise clears way for Commonwealth Games. A compromise has been reached between the Commonwealth nations regarding the Games.

Green fails in title challenge

Green fails in title challenge. A report on the failure of a boxer to win a title.

New Bhutto poils

New Bhutto poils. A report on the political situation in Pakistan.

Key Vatican appointment

Key Vatican appointment. A report on a key appointment in the Vatican.

Storm disruption

Storm disruption. A report on the disruption caused by a storm.

Pickets inquiry

Pickets inquiry. A report on the inquiry into the pickets.

Pay policy: Senior members

Pay policy: Senior members. A report on the pay policy for senior members.

Leader page, 17

Leader page, 17. A report on the leader page.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL YOU FIND STANDARD CHARTERED?

WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL YOU FIND STANDARD CHARTERED? A report on the Standard Chartered Bank.

Position unclear

Position unclear. A report on the unclear position.

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Siege at UN

Siege at UN. A report on the siege at the UN.

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HOME NEWS

Bill on rates relief for disabled will move legal doubts

Healy Services Correspondent
Government has decided today to give rate relief to disabled people and clarify confused legal position in a series of actions that in a House of Lords in 1971.

The new Bill will give all disabled people who have an entitlement to their home some relief. It will be introduced after consultation with local authorities and other organizations.

The Government's proposal is expected to go on to the House of Lords in 1978. The Bill is likely to be introduced in the House of Commons in 1978.

The House of Lords, however, reversed the decision and the Bill was restored to the list at full valuation.

Action urged over sales of substandard potatoes

Mr. Young
Mr. Wood said: "Very poor quality potatoes are getting through to the consumer."

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Worker gave up job rather than play cards

From Our Correspondent
Birmingham

Mr. Derek Plows, a former British Leyland worker, walked out of the company's plant at Castle Bromwich, West Midlands, rather than play cards all day, a Birmingham industrial tribunal was told. He had done that for four months and then decided that if there was no work he wanted to be made redundant.

The tribunal ruled yesterday that he was right to dismiss himself and has ordered British Leyland to pay him redundancy money. His walkout, it was stated, came after the closure of the night shift in the trim shop where he worked.

Mr. Plows, aged 42, of Shelley Close, Fordbridge, and others were offered jobs, on the day shift, where they were surplus to labour requirements. The tribunal decided that a payment of £3,380 a year for being idle was not an adequate substitute for £4,264 a year working through the night.

Although Mr. Plows had walked out, it found that the circumstances amounted to the same thing as dismissal for redundancy.

The tribunal's decision was seen by the Transport and General Workers' Union last night as a test case for 17 claims alleging unfair dismissal which it is bringing against the company.

Mr. Plows's payment is likely to be about £310 when it is agreed between the company and the union. In addition the company agreed, outside the hearing, to pay him £30 severance pay and the notice money he forfeited when he quit.

Giving the tribunal's decision that it was obvious there was redundancy, the chairman, Mr. Gerald Foster, said: "Loss of job satisfaction may not be sufficient reason to leave, of itself. But Mr. Plows permanently lost the opportunity of night shift work, which means a substantial loss of pay."

After the hearing, Mr. Plows said: "All I was doing all day long was playing cards. That was no good to me. I like to be active. I have a son who is just starting his O levels and I want him to stay on at school for another two years. I could not afford that if I had to face such a drop in wages."

Musical marathon
Nine Oxford University students intend to play all 82 Haydn quartets without an interruption from 3 p.m. today until tomorrow evening.

The proceeds will go to the Oxford Cyrenians and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Stolen paintings recovered by the Flying Squad on show at Kensington police station.

Business still attracts the public school boys

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Economics and business studies continue to attract a high proportion of public school boys, according to a survey on the intended careers of nearly 14,000 boys and 1,000 girls who left independent schools last year.

The Independent Schools' Careers Organization's *Careers Bulletin*, published yesterday, records that one in 12 boys leaving the 150 public schools

in the survey made that field their choice. That made it the second most popular career choice for boys after engineering, which attracted a tenth of all leavers. Science was the third most popular choice, followed by languages, law and medicine.

Among girls, secretarial work is still the most popular career, chosen last year by one in eight leaving the 45 public schools in the survey. Languages comes second, chosen by one in nine.

and third nursing, chosen by one in 14. Science has risen by two places to fourth. The largest drop for both girls and boys is in teaching and lecturing, only 4.9 per cent of girls and 1.1 per cent of boys choosing that career last year, compared with 8.4 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively the year before.

Four-fifths of the girls and three-quarters of the boys said they intended to go into full-time further or higher education.

That compares with only one-fifth of all school leavers going into further and higher education. More than half the independent school boys (54.5 per cent) and more than two-fifths of the independent school girls (44.5 per cent) intended to go to university, compared with only one in 15 (6.6 per cent) of all school leavers.

Careers Bulletin (Independent Schools' Careers Organization, 12a-18a, Pricess Way, Camberley, Surrey).

Deferred pay rise plan ends the TV dispute

By Kenneth Gosling

Pay increases for 34 woman production assistants who have been in dispute with Thames Television are to be banked for them until they can be paid legally under the pay code.

That agreement, together with an inquiry into their working conditions, was accepted last night. The assistants will resume normal working at the company's Teddington studios this morning. The offer is similar to the one rejected more than two weeks ago.

The dispute, over a claim for extra payment for working a night system of editing, disrupted Thames's Jubilee coverage and prevented the editing of several programmes.

Anti-rabies law was broken

Air India was fined £100 with £50 costs at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, Middlesex, yesterday for breaking Britain's anti-rabies laws. It admitted landing a mongrel dog at Heathrow airport, London, last November without an import licence.

Mr. Anthony Webb, for the airline, said the dog had a vaccination certificate, and an agent for Air India in New York, where the aircraft came from, wrongly thought that was sufficient.

Views of London 2: A clutch of barges drifts through a half-deserted Thameside
The men of dockland always come back to the river

By Peter Godfrey

Captain Abel set three alarm clocks. With a 25-hour shift ahead of him, it was not a question of clocking in on time, but of keeping up with the tide. An hour's lateness would prevent him from mooring his lighters alongside the wharf, and the journey up the Thames would be wasted.

He walked over the twisted rails and sleepers of the Royal Albert Dock and climbed down a rusty ladder, as familiar with the rungs as with every light and warehouse window on the river. He let the engine of the tug warm up, water smacking against the hollow metal of the hull.

Dockers arrived for the early shift, although few ships were in the dock, and the rows of upright cranes with grey cross-arms looked permanently inert. In the past one could walk across the dock from boat to boat; and "seek-

ing" tugs queued for extra loads.

The dockers used to be hungry for work, piecework. Now there was no hurry, but even a hint of apathy as they gathered, secure in their expectation of a standard wage, among the sackcloth packages in a corrugated iron warehouse. "It only takes a cloud over Deptford to stop work on some cargoes now," a foreman said sceptically.

The tug left the dock with four lightermen on board, and the captain manoeuvred alongside a buoy where four lightermen were moored. The lightermen cushioned the impact with woven-rope fenders and used a hitcher, like a garden hose, to pick the ropes off the buoy and attach them to the tug. The lightermen had to move swiftly, timing the run of the buoy, tying the ropes taut until they shook off spray, then slackening them again on

turning to guide the four lumbering vessels up river.

The lighterman's specialized skills take a five-year apprenticeship. Captain Abel, born by the Thames at Isleworth, was apprenticed to his uncle. His family have worked on the river for 200 years.

The decline of river traffic has forced many dockers and lightermen to look for work elsewhere. Some have taken pubs, others to driving taxis. Many moved out from the East End to Kent. But they always come back to the river. At a dockers' wedding everyone is likely to be a waterman except the pianist. "A lighterman drowned in King George Dock the other week," the captain said. "The police dragged the dock and couldn't find him, but the watermen got together, got a boat, and found their mate."

The tug churned upstream, past a grain terminal where lighters were being loaded.

stern first, and through large silos, flocks of pigeons in attendance. Beyond Greenwich, where a power station contrasts with the elegant twin domes of the Royal Naval College, there is less activity. The wharves that were once a forest of masts and rigging are mostly deserted. Dreadnought Wharf is a mass of black squares, with a thin chimney, oil drums and splintered timber. On the north bank, where the Surrey Canal used to meet the Thames (it is now blocked off), is a ghost ship, a rangle of rusted iron with vacant portholes. To the south, crane booms are drawn in alongside the desolate warehouses.

"At Regent's Canal Dock all they take by river now is a little scrap iron. The rest is done by road." The ascendancy of road transport has left the Thames half-deserted, with the added irony that many old docks are used by juggernauts

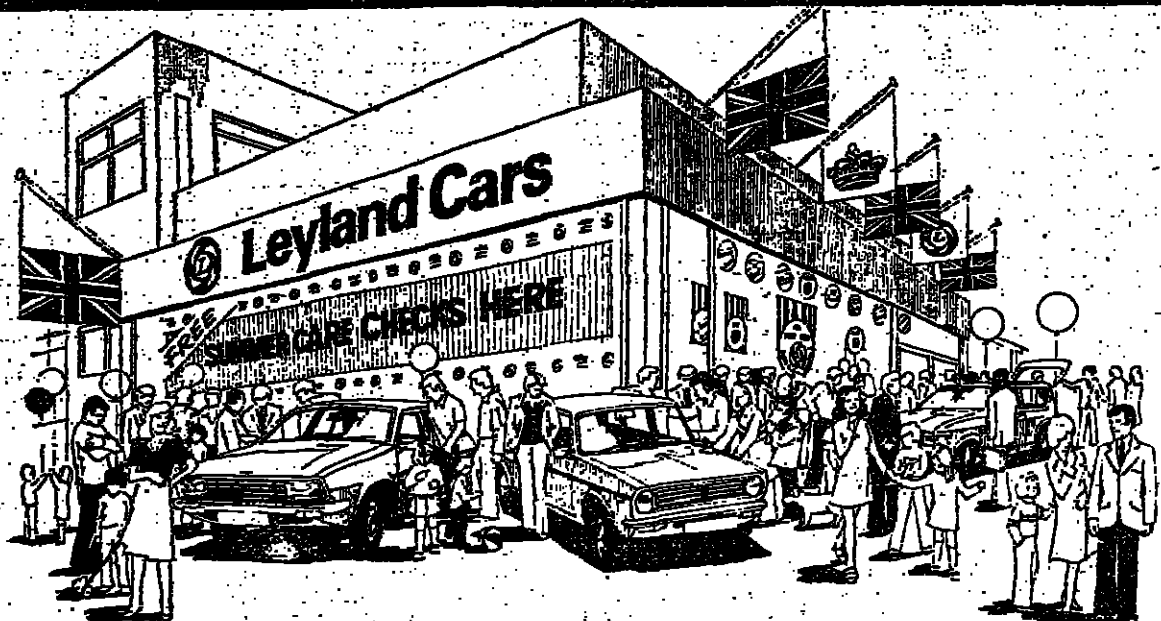
for parking and storage. Captain Abel was taking 1,500 tons of concrete, about 60 lorry loads, through the centre of London uncongested.

The tug crew lowered the mast to pass under Tower Bridge; it is rarely opened now. Further upstream the embankment was decorated with lions' heads, rings through their mouths. It is said that if the lions are drinking it will be right for headroom under Westminster Bridge; and it was, land-water swelling the river from a storm the night before.

Towards the expanses of rubble and wasteland near Walthamstow, the lightermen slackened the ropes and the tug rounded to port to unload. The sun threw a dappled light on the river, and the crew took a short rest. But high tide was at a quarter to three, and watermen go with the tide.

Next: The homeless

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From 17th June - 3rd July, it's all happening at your local Leyland Cars (Mini, Austin, Morris, Princess, M.G., Triumph, Rover, Jaguar and Daimler) showrooms.



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Come and join the fun, but hurry it must end 3rd July.

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Leyland Cars Great cars and a great deal more.

HOME NEWS

Jail for seven heroin ring members called by judge 'pedlars of death for profit'

Seven members of a £10m heroin syndicate described by Judge Clarke, QC, as pedlars of death for profit, were jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. They were said to be linked with the Chinese secret society, the Triad.

The judge dealt first with two of the ringleaders, Kok Lian Ng (pronounced Ung), known as "Jason", aged 25, son of a Malaysian tin mine millionaire, was jailed for 12 years and fined a total of £50,000 for smuggling into Britain up to 17lb of heroin worth an estimated £7m, and plotting to supply and possessing the drug with intent to supply.

Syed Abu Baker, aged 29, a logistic contractor, from Selangor, Malaysia, described as Mr Ng's courier, was jailed for 10 years and fined a total of £10,000.

The Crown had alleged that the drugs ring involved a total of 26lb of Chinese heroin. "For the first time yesterday it was disclosed to the court that by the time the drug had reached the addict, it was diluted to a tenth of its original purity it would have fetched £472,500 a lb."

The judge said: "Although, unlike the Far East, where the penalty for trafficking in heroin may well be death, it is regarded in this country as a very serious offence. As far as death is concerned, the people who have been responsible for facilitating death in this court are yourselves."

"You have peddled death to people who required this drug and could hardly keep away from it, and in return you made enormous profits."

"It is an unfortunate characteristic that those people who peddle this drug for large profits are seldom, if ever, addicts themselves. They know the effects, which are almost indescribable, and yet go on making money out of the torture of other people."

Five-year sentences were passed on four others convicted of being concerned in the plot to supply heroin. They were: David Howland, 41, aged 22, and Tang Poo Off Hai, aged 21, both students of Heathfield Park, Crickehowell, and Leonardo Elarte, aged 34, a Hongkong-born club manager.



Syed Abu Baker: "chief courier"



Tow How Lim: a London student



Leonardo Elarte: Sobu club manager

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Car chase led to end of drugs syndicate

By Stewart Tendler Home Affairs Reporter

Shoppers in Queensway, London, were startled one day last summer to see a BMW car go past them leaving a trail of small packets behind. As the driver tried to evade pursuing police cars his passengers were trying to jettison a cargo of Chinese heroin.

The chase was the last stage in "Operation Templar", mounted by Scotland Yard's drugs squad to take a syndicate importing Chinese No 3 heroin on a wholesale basis into Britain. It is estimated that the syndicate may have imported weekly amounts worth up to £200,000.

Yesterday seven members of the syndicate, including Kok Lian Ng (pronounced Ung), a wealthy Malaysian businessman and the organizational head of the syndicate, and Syed Abu Baker, his passenger in the car chase and the main courier for the drugs, were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court and imprisoned.

It was the end for Mr Ng, also known as "Jason", of a carefully conceived operation which ran successfully for more than 18 months supplying drug pushers and through them Chinese and European addicts in London and elsewhere.

"Jason" created an importation route which began in Bangkok, passing through



"Jason" Ng: a ringleader.

Malaysia, Bahrain and into London via Heathrow airport. At one point the syndicate kept a craftsman manufacturing suitcases with false sides and bottoms to carry the heroin.

They were carried by Mr Baker, who was often supervised on his flights to London by watchers on board the aircraft who were there to maintain security and prevent the loss of the cargo.

Mr Baker handed over his cargo at a rendezvous in a Mayfair hotel. From there the drug was distributed to retailers via

Baywater or the Chinese community in Gerrard Street, Soho. Deals were made and drugs were left at appointed places, buried under trees in Hyde Park or taped under the shelf in telephone kiosks.

Several members of the syndicate were shareholders in a Chinese gambling club, called the 39 Club, which provided one of the centres for operations.

In Malaysia he might pay £3,500 for 5lb of heroin, produced in the "Golden Triangle" of Thailand, Laos and Burma. Couriers received £200 a trip. In London the price rose to £4,000 a pound wholesale, then £1,500 an ounce wholesale and passed down the line towards the addicts.

The whole operation was a classic of its kind, using methods that have been employed in a number of other European countries during the past few years. In some, especially Holland, the organization and financing has often been attributed to "triads" which began as Chinese mutual aid societies but degenerated into criminal gangs.

Detectives believe "Jason" and several of his colleagues had connections with triad groups. The syndicate maintained links with Amsterdam and Rome and two of the men found guilty came from Hong Kong, where the triads were

until recently a powerful force in heroin trafficking to Europe.

The drugs squad began its operation after it was decided to concentrate on trying to halt the heroin supply coming into Britain through the Chinese community. Detectives worked from addicts upwards, piecing together the framework of supplies in six months of surveillance by up to 50 officers.

One man was stopped as he delivered half an ounce to an addict in Chelsea. Two pounds more were found buried in a garden in Ilford, Essex, used by the syndicate as a warehouse. A search of "Jason's" home produced a further 68 packets of heroin in a drawer.

If the police had not acted the syndicate would have gone ahead to refine its techniques of importation. Plans had been laid for Ng Brothers Ltd, a newly formed firm, to import deep frozen prawns and other Chinese delicacies via Billingsgate market. Storage had been arranged near Sevenoaks, Kent. But the company would have been a vehicle for a more profitable venture.

The trial, and others which preceded it, have not ended the supply of heroin, although the Chinese supply is said to be scarce. There could be as few as 40 more traffickers in Britain.

Flying Squad chief 'was on payroll of criminal'

By Clive Borrell

A former head of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad and two other senior detectives received bribes in cash and kind from a £500,000 pornography dealer who put himself outside the law, it was stated at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr James Humphreys, said by Mr David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, to be a former prominent criminal in Soho, concerned with pornography, prostitution and drug dealing, will be called to today when the trial resumes, to give evidence against the three men.

Counsel said they were "indebting themselves" to this tynan, who was putting himself outside the law, aged 56, a former commander and once head of the Flying Squad, of Bentley Lane, Sidcup, Kent, John Bryn Legge, aged 37, a suspended detective inspector of Minster Drive, Croydon, and Alastair David Legman, aged 43, a former detective inspector of Arundale Avenue, Hinchley Wood, Surrey, have all pleaded not guilty to a conspiracy containing 14 charges alleging that they received bribes from Mr Humphreys. Not all of them face the same charges.

Mr Tudor Price said that between 1971 and 1972 Mr Drury on Mr Humphreys's payroll, receiving about £5,000 in cash and a further £5,000 in kind "so that he could have a friend in the police who could assist him in times of trouble."

The matter first came to light, he said, on February 27, 1972, when the *Sunday People* contained an article alleging that Commander Drury and his wife spent a holiday with Mr Humphreys and his wife in Cyprus. Mr Drury was alleged to have told senior Yard officers that he went to Cyprus because Mr Humphreys was a good informant and had information that the train robber, Ronald Biggs, was in hiding there.

So confident was Mr Drury of his relationship with Mr Humphreys, who had served six years in Dartmoor, counsel said, that he sent a postcard to his colleagues at Scotland Yard. It was pinned up on the Flying Squad notice board and became the subject of much comment.

Mr Tudor Price said that Mr Drury was the principal defendant and Mr Ingram a "much lesser figure", who supplied Mr Humphreys with confidential information for which he received monetary and other rewards. Mr Legge owed his position in the dock in large measure to Mr Drury. He benefited in receiving from Mr Humphreys bribes to please Mr Drury.

Shorter jail terms for many offenders urged

By Marcel Berlins Legal Correspondent

A strong and unequivocal call for shorter prison sentences in the lower and middle ranges is made by the Advisory Council on the Penal System in an interim report published today. It says that many jail sentences passed by the courts are longer than they need be either in the interests of society or of the offender.

It makes it clear that it is not necessary to impose sentences for hard-core criminals who are guilty of serious offences and present a threat to society and for whom long periods of imprisonment are justifiable on the grounds of public protection.

Mr Raes, the Home Secretary, has expressed considerable sympathy with the council's views, and has welcomed its proposals. While he has no powers over judges or magistrates in the sentences they pass, he would not object to interfere with the judiciary, Mr Raes has "commended" the report to those involved in sentencing.

The council has issued the interim report on its own initiative. In the course of conducting an inquiry into the system of maximum penalties it came to the conclusion that many minor offenders were spending too long in prison, and wanted to propose a remedy urgently.

The council, chaired by Lady Sorn, points out that while the present system of sentencing is based on the idea of the "desert" of the offender, it is not based on the idea of the "need" of the offender. It is not based on the idea of the "rehabilitation" of the offender, but on the idea of the "punishment" of the offender.

The council emphasizes, however, that its main motive for making the proposals was not to relieve overcrowding in prisons but because they were desirable for their own sake. The Length of Prison Sentences Committee on the Penal System (Stationery Office, 55p).

which the recommendations referred.

A steadily accumulating volume of research has shown that, using the yardstick of reconviction rates, there was usually nothing to choose between different lengths of custodial sentence. Given that there was no reason to suppose that longer sentences had a greater impact than shorter ones, the general rule which the council urged courts to follow was to stop at the point where a sentence had been decided upon, and consider whether a shorter one would not do just as well.

"Are there not cases of two years' imprisonment where 18 months, or 15, or even less, might safely be passed and sentences of 12 months when six months would do just as well? And for the offender, is it not better to be out of prison sooner than later?"

The effect on the prison system of a reduction in prison sentences could be significant, the report says. In the present economic climate even small savings should be taken not to waste money by keeping people in prison unnecessarily long. Furthermore, those who did remain in prison would be able to serve their sentences in more humane conditions if the overcrowding could be reduced.

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Leading article, page 17

Vaccination offer to cut flu in Post Office

By Our Health Services Correspondent

More than 400,000 Office workers will be offered vaccination against influenza next autumn after a five-year study that has shown that benefits far outweigh the cost.

The study was made by Post Office Health Services, a voluntary health service, which found that last autumn about 30 per cent of employees could be expected to take a vaccination offer each year, and the cost to the Post Office would be about £250,000, saving on lost time could be as much as £1m.

On the results the Post Office could expect a saving of 120,000 working days a winter if all its employees were vaccinated.

In an office of 100 people offered vaccination, about fewer working days were lost through sickness over six months each year than in an office where no vaccination was offered.

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Ospreys hatch in incubator at Aviemore

Two young ospreys that were hatched from the path of a forest fire in the Scottish Highlands have been hatched in an incubator and returned to their parents. It was announced yesterday.

Instructions on the temperature and humidity for the eggs during the week they were hatched, the Highland Wildlife Foundation, which is based at Professor Tom Cade, of Cornell University, New York, a lead authority on the captive breeding of birds of prey.

Mr William Newlands, in charge of the project, said the eggs were in a rotten state, threatened by a forest fire. A parent bird had been driven away and the eggs were left to rot.

Mr Harvey Burton, who is in charge of the project, said the eggs were in a rotten state, threatened by a forest fire. A parent bird had been driven away and the eggs were left to rot.

When the young ospreys were hatched, Mr Burton returned them to their parents and the parents returned and tended them.

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No extra aid, Mr Rodgers tells local authorities

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday summed up his transport White Paper due to be published soon. He will tell local authorities to cut their costs according to their cloth as there will be no additional money from the Government.

He told delegates to the conference of the Institution of Municipal Engineers in Brighton: "You must accept the financial discipline and public debate that characterized our times."

At a press conference later he said: "We are not a Rolls-Royce nation. We have got to make do and mend. We must not plan for the Utopia round the corner because Utopia never comes."

Replying to an appeal by Mr Norman Pritchard, the president, for more money for roads, Mr Rodgers said: "If local authorities believe they have a road crisis they will decide that that is their priority for spending money on."

Group inquiring into back pain invites evidence

The Working Group on Back Pain has invited professional and voluntary organizations with an interest in the treatment of the complaint to submit evidence to it in writing by the end of August.

The working group was appointed by the Department of Health and Social Security last year and started work in November under the chairmanship of Professor A. L. Cochrane to review present provision, advise whether services could be more effectively organized, and advise on the development of clinics.

Back pain costs the nation seven million working days lost and about £100m in sickness benefit and treatment each year.

Evidence from organizations may be sent to the Joint Secretaries, Working Group on Back Pain, Department of Health and Social Security, Ramhill House, Elephant and Castle, London, SE1 6TE.

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Roman sites protest

The latest report of the Ancient Monuments Board for England expresses concern at cases where local planning authorities granted outline development permission without archaeological importance.

Two cases named are Alcester Roman town, in Warwickshire, and Corstopium Roman site, at Corbridge, Northumberland.

At Alcester, despite the advice of the ancient monuments directorate, permission for housing was granted. The Department of the Environment issued an interim preservation notice and order and compensation had to be paid. In Roman times Alcester contained industrial workshops.

At Corstopium, once a Roman station, part of the site was threatened by a proposed housing project. The Department of the Environment is now negotiating to buy the site. Ancient Monuments Board for England, 1976 (Stationery Office, 60p).

More plutonium near Windscale than at US test site, inquiry told

From Pearce Wright Science Editor Whitehaven

The strength of opposition to plans to build a new type of nuclear fuel reprocessing plant costing £600m at Whitehaven, Cumbria, emerged on the opening day of the public inquiry at Whitehaven yesterday. The inquiry is expected to last three weeks.

Mr Justice Parker told the supporters of the plan and more than fifty organizations and individuals opposing the plan that the three basic questions would be answered: Should oxide nuclear fuel from reactors in the United Kingdom be reprocessed at all? If so, should the plan be to double the size needed for fuel for British reactors in order to reprocess foreign fuels?

Lord Silcock, QC, for British Nuclear Fuels, said the issue was a debate on the future of the United Kingdom had a fast breeder reactor programme or a predominantly nuclear power system. The second generation of nuclear power stations will be in production or being commissioned. Spent fuel would be coming from them and something had to be done with it. Reprocessing that fuel made possible, the

reuse of the uranium and plutonium, adding about 30 to 40 per cent to the power generated from the original uranium ore.

He maintained that reprocessing was the only established method of controlling for several decades radioactive material in spent fuel and provided the best way for the long term control and ultimate disposal of the waste.

Lord Silcock suggested that Windscale had all the necessary skills and technology for the proposed plant was not novel and the company could draw on its experience and that of its partners in France and Germany. Emphasis of radioactive effluent from the site would have no significantly greater impact on the environment than those hitherto.

He accepted the risks of plutonium that would come from the oxide plant and the possible proliferation of nuclear weapons. He said denial of reprocessing would achieve nothing. Denial to the long countries who had or could develop the technology themselves would place serious pressures on them to reprocess their own fuel. A country determined to develop nuclear weapons could do it whether or not its fuel was reprocessed by Britain.

"One cannot exclude the possibility of evil men stealing enough fissile material to make a crude nuclear device and exploding it, but banning reprocessing would not and terrorism would not be deterred."

Mr John Gildewell, for Cumbria County Council, said the authority was "generally favourable" to the plan, but also supported the application, saying it was happy with the safety and environmental standards, but would welcome any further strengthening of the plant's performance.

The first opponent, for the Isle of Man, was Mr George Dobry, QC. He said: "It cannot be generally accepted that the concentration of plutonium 239 and plutonium 240 in the sea near the Windscale discharge pipe is 26 times higher than in the waters of one of the Pacific Islands used by the United States for testing nuclear weapons. It is 2,600 times higher than in the open oceans."

Dobry said the people of the Isle of Man feared for the general safety of the population in case of accident or sabotage. Civil liberties and personal freedom would be at risk in a society dependent on the strict security which would have to accompany further development of nuclear power. The accumulation of waste discharged into

the Irish Sea, where it would remain active for thousands of years, was for the Isle of Man a matter of grave concern.

Mr Dobry referred to the fact that the site had been developed without any express planning permission or any form of planning clearance. He maintained safety could not be guaranteed because far too little was known about oxide-fuel reprocessing.

The only experience to draw on was that gained when the relatively small amount of 25 tonnes of spent fuel was processed at Windscale for about four years. That had to be stopped because of the head and accident in 1973.

During the four-year period, when oxide fuel was reprocessed at Windscale, there were on discharges of alpha emitters were related from 1,800 curies to 5,000 curies. He felt that needed explaining.

He compared discharges with the total fallout of plutonium from atmospheric nuclear tests, giving about 240,000 curies a year, but dispersed over the world's surface, which was more able to absorb this compared with the effluent being pumped into the Irish Sea.

Over the next few decades Windscale would be permitted to discharge into that sea an amount of plutonium equalling

all this worldwide pollution.

Mr Dobry said: "Before development like this can be allowed there must be an established policy as to the development of nuclear power, an established policy as to the location of developments and an established national policy for protection of the public as the hazards involved."

Mr Raymond Kidwell, chairman of the Earth, said the case was that large-scale reprocessing of spent uranium fuel was too dangerous for peace of the world and there was no foreseeable future to be undertaken.

At the very least there would be no possible need to decide to build extra additional plant in this country for at least 10 years.

The estimated Japanese reprocessing plant would cost £600m to the balance of means, involved taking in a "diabolical nuclear waste from small countries, which would be heathily glad to rid of it."

If plutonium is separated, Kidwell said, then England became a great storehouse for the most dangerous product ever invented. Even a pc equipped terrorist organization could make horrible and destructive devices out of small quantities of plutonium.

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Key Vatican post for little known diplomat

Upfront

From Patricia Clough
Rome, June 14

The Pope today appointed Mgr. Giuseppe Caprio, a little-known Vatican diplomat and administrator, to the key post of Undersecretary of State.

Mgr Caprio, who for the past eight years has had the unenvied task of administering the Vatican's property, succeeds Mgr. Giovanni Benelli. Benelli was recently named Archbishop of Florence, a move regarded here as providing the pastoral experience suitable for the future head of the Holy See.

Mgr Benelli will be made a cardinal later this month.

An able and energetic administrator like his predecessor, Mgr Caprio is regarded as having a milder personality and lacking the strong political views which earned Mgr Benelli considerable criticism.

He has long been close to Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Secretary of State, who was his immediate superior in the Vatican's financial management.

A southern Italian with an amiable and unobtrusive personality, Mgr Caprio is said to get on well and happily to carry out the Pope's policies without ruffling as many feelings as Mgr Benelli did.

Far from being known, he has little interest in Italian

Few Britons want jobs with Community

From Our Correspondent
Strasbourg, June 14

Few Britons apply for EEC staff jobs and those who do so are drawn so far after appointment, according to Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the European Commissioner responsible for staff.

Mr Tugendhat was replying at the European Parliament here today when asked why so few Britons were employed by the EEC.

He said uncertainty over the result of the 1975 referendum on continuing EEC membership had deterred Britons from applying.

He said that the Commission had 7

the head—effectively although not officially of the Italian hierarchy.

He considered primarily an administrator, Mr Caprio is called to run what are obviously the closing stages of the Pope's reign. He has been chosen to carry out policies that are already well established, rather than to make new ones.

His personality is still very much an unknown quantity, and he will doubtless be watched with much curiosity.

Looking much younger than his 62 years, Mr Caprio has a long Italian experience behind him.

Britain blocks EEC oil crisis plan

the Commission could propose that the target for reducing oil consumption should be based on the present level of consumption. This would be extended to include other forms of energy.

This proposal would be submitted to the Council of Ministers within 10 days and would be approved or rejected by majority vote. The petroleum industry would be shared out among EEC member states.

Evidently referring to Britain's position as the EEC's only source of indigenous oil, Dr Mabon argued that it was "unfair to expect Britain to carry the burden of the energy-sharing scheme."

Discussion of the scheme came during a wide-ranging review of energy problems presided over by Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

Dr Mabon also made clear to its partners that the Government was not prepared to comply with any

the prior approval of the Community for the building of new oil refineries or the replacement of existing ones. Such a scheme has been proposed by the Commission because of refinery overcapacity in the Community.

Dr Mabon also said he felt the EEC was treating Britain unfairly by refusing to recognize that the Culham laboratory had been established for the Community's thermonuclear fusion project.

Unlike West Germany, which has a rival site for the project, Britain to date had not been chosen for any important Community project of this kind.

At a separate meeting of EEC environment ministers, presided over by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, Britain appeared to be taking a less sympathetic line than in the past for its opposition to the imposition of uniform emission limits to reduce

[illegible]

OVERSEAS

Commonwealth storm over whether to name President Amin

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Commonwealth leaders, after reaffirming their commitment to human rights, were engaged in a sharp discussion last night in which Uganda should be criticised by name. Country after country spoke out against what is going on in Uganda, but Nigeria argued that the country should not be mentioned.

The meeting, restricted to heads of government, was conducted in unusual secrecy, with no advisers present. The aim was to approve a statement in the final communiqué, due to be issued this evening. Feeling ran so high at the meeting that the discussion which was supposed to be over in an hour and a half, ran to double that time and will go on again when a new draft will be presented.

Zambia and Tanzania, which have not concealed their strong disapproval of President Amin, were understood to favour the right of condemnation of the Ugandan regime. Most countries believe that to conclude the conference without reference to Uganda would undermine the purpose and standing of the Commonwealth itself.

They cited the association's declaration of principles, agreed in 1971: "We believe in the liberty of the individual, in equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, colour, creed or political belief. We therefore strive to promote in each of our countries those representative institutions and guarantees for personal freedom under the laws that are our common heritage."

Nigeria made the point, while not defending President Amin's conduct, that it would have been preferable for him to put out his case at the conference. It was not quite isolated but very much a lone voice putting its view.

The one or two others others that took this view maintain that the bulk of the Commonwealth conference is a different and quite separate matter from the internal affairs of a member country which is not, as it happens, represented at the meeting.

British opposition to President Amin has been consistently strong. Extensive diplomatic efforts to dissuade the Ugandan leader from setting foot in this country continued last week, culminating in Mr Callaghan's letter informing him that his presence at the conference would not be welcome.

Uganda itself, to preserve the friendships that have grown up in the past and, even more important, to keep the lines open for the future when Uganda may need Commonwealth help again.

Two main issues were understood to be dominating the heads of government discussion on Rhodesia: the extension of sanctions to cut Rhodesian oil supplies from South Africa and the role of the Rhodesian Army in any constitutional settlement.

Mr Aboud Jumba, the Tanzanian Vice-President, has said that African countries could support the British initiative, but only on the assumption that Britain intended to dismantle the Army which underwrites the Smith regime.

Although Mr Jumba, deputising for President Nyerere, and others might prefer a strong statement on Rhodesia, the backing of the Army as a precondition of any settlement, the British side has to consider the likely effect of such a demand in negotiations.

British support of African aspirations for an independent Zimbabwe is not in question, but Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, has said he believes the greatest problem is to gain the backing of the white population for his constitutional proposals. The risk is that all-out demands by the Commonwealth for the army's immediate desertion might be counterproductive.

Earlier at the conference Tanzania posed the question whether the British Government believed the Rhodesian Army could be disbanded by a unilateral action. "If so, can it now tell us how this will be done, or at least give assurance that it will be done before success is claimed for the political initiative?" it asked.

Britain is also somewhat anxious, although for a different reason, about the demands to extend sanctions to prevent South Africa supplying Rhodesia with oil, which is a rather complex international issue.

Mr Callaghan gave a spirited defence of Britain's aid effort when the economic discussions concluded yesterday. The Prime Minister pointed out that British aid this year was increasing by £100m to £679m. This was almost entirely in grants and loans and two thirds would be going to the poorest countries.

Conference Notebook by Michael Leapman

Delegates harangue the press for a place in the history books

As the Commonwealth conference nears its close, reporters suffer from a glut of engagements. Numerous delegates and officials seek to put on record their version of events before it is too late. The fact of having scores of influential correspondents hanging around the press centre during the conference sessions with very little to do, and a well-equipped press conference room to harangue them, proves an irresistible temptation.

Yesterday we began with Alastair McIntyre, who led a group of Commonwealth experts charged by the last conference with producing a report containing proposals for bridging the rich-poor gap in the context of the world's economic order.

The report recommended "a fundamental transformation of the world's socio-economic structure" (what else?) and yesterday Mr McIntyre sought to explain it in greater detail.

What we needed, he said, was action. We were "moving from the level of general analysis to the level of fine print". As part of that development, this conference is expected to establish a task force to tackle the problem.

They can set up all the task forces they like and there will be no solution. In plain terms, a new international economic order means making the developed countries pay more for goods from the developing countries. The report called for an increase in the price of a single commodity, coffee, shows how politically unrealistic it is to expect the governments of the developed countries, anxious for re-election, to agree to such things.

On the dot of noon, we left Mr McIntyre in mid-sentence to rush to something more down-to-earth. Robert Muldoon was explaining why he had submitted a paper on the condition of the heads of government condemning sporting links with South Africa.

It was difficult for him. He began by announcing that New Zealand Universities rugby team had just beaten the British Lions by an impressive margin, and settled down to try to explain to the New Zealand press that his policy had not fundamentally altered, and to Afro-Asian reporters that it had.

At the risk of alienating my liberal New Zealand friends, I have to say that he acquitted himself splendidly. I particularly enjoyed of the way he named the African journalists who sought to expose their own views on the question.

It happened that Mr Muldoon was the first man I met at my next engagement, a lunch given by diplomatic correspondents for heads of delegation. I put it to him that he had been a bit robust with his questions, and he said that it was nothing compared with how he sometimes behaved at home.

Press conferences, he said, were simply for the purpose of eliciting information, not for peddling a prejudice. He agreed, too, with my views on the New Economic Order. "We have too many conferences on it," he said. "All we do is have conferences, let's have good food and drink and all that, but it doesn't get us very far."

The lunch was on the balcony of the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington, with 30 small tables and chairs, the main floor area of the building was assigned to each table and it was my good fortune to be seated next to his portly and amiable highness Prince Turipehake, Prime Minister of Tonga.

After a friendly altercation with a German reporter on his other side, who had commended his roll, he told me that he had contributed little to the discussions at the conference. "I do not believe that people should say anything when they have nothing important to say," he declared.



Mr Muldoon arriving at Lancaster House yesterday.

I joked that if everyone had kept to that principle, the conference would have ended in half the time, but he diplomatically declined to agree. He said his main object was to ensure that his country should continue to find markets for its crops.

Formal speeches at the end were brief. James Callaghan was in a jolly mood, saying how little he thought of reporters, but saying it in the nicest possible way.

Mr Laker cautious on Skytrain approval

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

The decision by President Carter to allow a start to the Skytrain air service across the North Atlantic comes after a six-year campaign by Mr F. A. "Freddie" Laker to have his revolutionary plan for cheap, walk-on air transport accepted in both London and Washington.

Mr Laker was uncharacteristically silent yesterday on the President's ruling, preferring to study it before making his views known at a press conference this morning at his base at Gatwick, the second London airport.

He was apparently concerned by the one-year trial period specified by the President, and also by the fact that at least two United States charter airlines have applied for permission to operate similar services between New York and London.

President Carter also ruled that 60 days must pass before Skytrain could begin so that American airlines were able to put their cases for similar service to the United States Civil Aeronautics Board. This means that the Laker Skytrain probably will operate its maiden services by the end of September or early October.

A single fare would be £59 from London to New York, while a single from New York to London would be £80. Laker will probably ask the British Civil Aviation Authority for an increase soon to keep up with inflation.

This makes a return ticket about the same price as an advance booking charter (ABC) fare on British Airways or any other major airline. But while ABC tickets must be booked two months in advance, passengers would be able to go to Stanstead airport, London, on the morning of the Skytrain flight, and assuming there was room, walk on board, paying for their seat after take-off.

Mr Laker said that his plan was to make the Skytrain a "walk-on" service, with passengers bringing their own food and drink, and passengers bringing their own food and drink would not be discouraged. "They can eat fish and chips on board if they like," Mr Laker said.

Permission from the President for the cheap Laker service came within hours of the decision by the New York Appeal Court to ban the premium-fare Concorde from landing in New York.

Several years ago, Mr Laker persuaded British Airways by making public his plan to operate Concorde profitably—a plan that was never taken up. But by then world aviation had become used to him acting the enforcer, a trait repeatedly exercised during the long campaign to have Skytrain accepted.

British help for economy of Turkish Cyprus

From Robert Fisk

Nicosia, June 14

Confidential export figures produced by the Republic Ministry of Commerce in Nicosia suggest that Britain is playing a large part in maintaining the economy of the self-proclaimed "federated" state in north Cyprus.

According to the figures shown to me by official sources in the Turkish Cypriot Administration, the United Kingdom is the largest single export market for Turkish Cyprus, accounting for 33.1 per cent of all exports last year.

This is more than 3 per cent higher than sales to Turkey which might have been expected to provide the largest market. According to official figures, the Turkish Cypriot Administration has hitherto refrained from giving any details of economy for fear that the Greek Cypriots would attempt to take action against shipping export companies doing business with Turkish Cyprus. Or two weeks ago, the Greek Cypriots released from jail Danish sea captain implicated for sailing into the Turk-controlled port of Famagusta.

There is no way of checking the accuracy of the Turkish Cypriot figures, although Greek Cypriots would undoubtedly study them with interest. According to ministry papers here, British last year imported 13,578 tons of oranges, 3,777 tons of lemons, and 4,534 tons of grapefruit. Almost the entire fruit ports were sent directly by air to British from Turkish Cyprus, and according to sources here, they were given a special tariff, which opened up Famagusta, their port of origin, to British fruit imports at a rate worth more than £17.

Holland was Turkish Cypriot third largest market, after 1 year after Britain and Turkey. The Turkish Cypriot authorities appear to be putting special emphasis this year on their exports to the 12 European countries, which hope to encourage Arab buyers for their fruit and textile ports.

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Kampala radio silent on 'spy'

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, June 14

Uganda radio has made no reference for three days to Mr Robert Scamlon, the British-born engineer who was arrested last week for alleged spying, and who was said by President Amin to be liable to execution by firing squad.

There has been no confirmation from sources in Uganda of reports, circulated by Agence France Presse, that Mr Scamlon was killed in a Kampala prison at the weekend. A Nairobi newspaper, the Daily Nation, carried an anonymous telephone call last Friday, claiming to be from Kampala, and saying that Mr Scamlon was already dead.

Injunction on Uganda tea funds

By Michael Horsnell

Nairobi, June 14

An injunction preventing the Ugandan Government from disposing of the proceeds of Uganda tea sold recently in London was granted in the High Court yesterday.

The injunction was sought by a British company that has never received compensation for the nationalization of its tea estates worth £5m to £6m in 1972.

The Uganda Company (Holdings) Ltd, a subsidiary of the Mirbach Group, which was granted an ex parte injunction by the High Court on May 30, was yesterday granted an extension of the injunction until trial or order.

At his press conference Mr Muldoon, looking weary and far from triumphant, pointed out that there had in fact been no direct sporting contacts between New Zealand and South Africa since the 1975 tour. Indeed, he said, eight prospective engagements had been cancelled. All this had been achieved by quiet but effective discouragement.

Police use tear gas again as a tense Soweto prepares to mourn last year's deaths

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, June 14

A large pall of dirty, black smog hangs over Soweto these morning, the result of the tens of thousands of wood and coal fires which the township's million or so inhabitants keep alight to protect them from the cold winter nights.

The mood of the people is both sombre and tense. Most of the secondary schools have been up holding classes because the students are staying away. Instead the youngsters mill around the streets in groups, discussing this week's commemoration of the first anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

Every so often police vans go rushing past, their windows protected by thick wire mesh against stones or other missiles. The police vehicles and a number of public and private cars were damaged in more than a dozen incidents today. The police have been equipped with Perspex shields and crash helmets which make them look like Roman centurions.

Some of their vehicles have been fitted with special tear gas dispensers which the local press has dubbed "tear gas machines". It is hoped these devices will dissuade the police from reaching for their guns with quite the alacrity they showed last June.

A reporter and a photographer from The World newspaper were detained by black police during the day. The police say they want to avoid a confrontation with the students but will take firm action in the event of violence. For its part, the Soweto Students' Representative Council has urged its supporters to do nothing that would provoke police action. Neither group seems really to trust the other, however.

The police, black and white, eye the students suspiciously as they move about in their vehicles. The students defiantly jeer and give black power salutes.

There have been a number of violent incidents during the past few days, but none so far involving serious injury. This afternoon the police used tear gas to break up crowds of students who had gathered outside Orlando high school. Several arrests were made. Tear gas was also used to disperse students who attacked a car belonging to the police.

On the face of it, at least, some of the wounds caused by last year's unrest seem to be beginning to heal. In the Dube area of central Soweto a brand new Barclays Bank building has sprung up beside the charred remains of the previous structure that was burnt out last year. At Jaburu, further to the west, repairs are being carried out on the bullet-riddled and smoke-blackened classrooms of Morris Isaacson school.

Many of the liquor stores that were attacked last year in protest against the sale of alcohol being used to help finance Soweto's running costs have been rebuilt. In the West Rand Bantu, which administers Soweto, badly needs the revenue from liquor sales. However the board's own administrative offices, which have been rebuilt, are still under attack because they represented white authority and domination, have not been repaired.

The sense of anger, resentment and humiliation among the township's residents, which erupted after June 16 last year, has not been assuaged, however. If anything, these feelings have hardened and become more deeply felt as blacks wait for the white Government to accept that their manifold grievances are genuine.

There is little the Government has done during the past year to make blacks believe it is planning to introduce social reforms, let alone the political changes they wish to see. The Government did back down over the use of Africans in schools, which started last year's unrest. That at least was a victory for the students.

The Government has introduced a home-ownership scheme and some new measures concerning school books and school attendance. It has also announced its intention to replace the now defunct and totally discredited "community council" with a proposed "community council", but all this does not amount to very much.

"Nothing really has been achieved as a result of last year's catastrophe", Mr Willie Kambele, principal of Orlando high school, said. "There has been a slight change of attitude on behalf of the Government, but this is not enough to dampen the explosive state of situation you have here."

Mr Percy Qobusa, editor of the black newspaper The World, complains that there has been plenty of talk among whites about change but little action.

Hardly a family in Soweto did not have a friend or relative who was killed or wounded during the rioting. Many parents saw their children shot at or arrested and often physically maltreated. They are now asking whether this has all been in vain.

Gummen 'trained in Angola'

From Our Correspondent

Buenos Aires, June 14

An Argentine newspaper has reported the release of Gummen, a former Argentine Minister of the Navy and Air Force, who spent 42 days in jail.

The four men were arrested on May 4 by order of a magistrate who charged them with abuse of public office and offences in awarding contracts to build an aluminium plant in 1971.

The appeals court studied the case for three weeks before ordering Gen. Lanusse and his former colleagues to be released from prison. It ordered the investigation into the case to continue and did not put the charges against the four men.

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Buenos Aires, June 14

An Argentine newspaper has reported the release of General Lanusse, a former Argentine Minister of the Navy and Air Force, who spent 42 days in jail.

The four men were arrested on May 4 by order of a magistrate who charged them with abuse of public office and offences in awarding contracts to build an aluminium plant in 1971.

The appeals court studied the case for three weeks before ordering Gen. Lanusse and his former colleagues to be released from prison. It ordered the investigation into the case to continue and did not put the charges against the four men.

Beigin coalition ready next week

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, June 14

With Professor Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change deciding early this morning against joining a Likud government, Mr Menachem Beigin is proceeding to form a narrow coalition of his Likud group and religious parties. He will present it to the Knesset on Monday.

ing Likud, two from the National Religious Party (NRP) and Moshe Dayan, who was elected as a Labour candidate but is now an independent. Three Cabinet portfolios are to be held in reserve for two or three months in the hope that the DMC may reconsider its decision.

Another party source said when the Likud executive meets on Thursday there will be a proposal to consider the DMC's decision final and to distribute the portfolios.

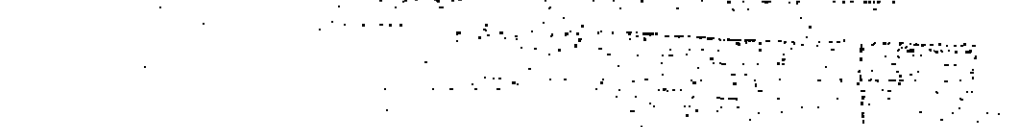
Coalition agreements with the NRP and Agudat Israel, another religious party, have not yet been signed and the assignment of cabinet portfolios is not definite. There are rival factions, particularly among factions within Likud. Experience shows that the formation of governments is often delayed by argument over cabinet jobs but Mr Beigin was said to be confident he will be able to introduce his government on Monday as promised.

Mr Beigin, who claimed a landslide victory in the election on March 7 when he won all but 37 of 200 seats, has come a long way to meet the Opposition demand for a new general election. The present talks, which began on June 3, were arranged on the initiative of King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, whose ambassador in Pakistan acted as mediator after the 12 weeks of violent disturbances and riots which followed the election.

Several other Muslim countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Libya, made open efforts to persuade both sides in Pakistan to seek a negotiated settlement.

Apparently these countries, which have a large number of Pakistanis working on their development programmes, regard Pakistan as a source of strength in their struggle against Israel. They have also made substantial financial investments in Pakistan.

After today's meeting both Government and Opposition spokesmen said that the remaining issues should be resolved by tomorrow. According to a tentative agreement the Opposition would not join an interim government and Mr Bhutto would continue to act as Prime Minister until the new election which will probably be held in October or November.



Government remain committed to devolution: legislation deferred until next session

ket. The proposal was not for a specific proposition, but to have the possibility of negotiating or negotiating, no more no less. We put to the people in February and October our proposal for a conference, and the people gave us a mandate for a conference. We have a mandate from the country to carry this measure on to the statute book.

Mr. Neil Kinnock (Bedfordshire, Labour) said he continues to believe that the only way forward is to try further progress on devolution. He is trying to sustain an unyielding political idea that there is life after the referendum subject.

Mr. Foot—He was sent to Llandudno to put our views to the representative democratic assemblies of the Labour Party in Wales. He was not to be a patient and overbearing that he lost the vote. The party voted overwhelmingly for what we are doing.

Mr. Douglas Henderson (East Aberdeenshire, Labour) said that he and the response from the Tory front bench as confirmation to the people of Scotland that they were not going to be taken seriously to look after their interest. There is no point in coming out with any further proposals unless the Government are able to carry a possible motion on such a Bill. Without it, it is like a window dressing and a waste of time.

Mr. Foot—What people in Scotland should take note of is that all the time that the Government have sought to be to present us with a Bill which they knew would not have the faintest chance of getting through. It was a waste of time and a serious proposal. It was a propaganda exercise.

What we are proposing is a Bill which goes through the Commons, which commands a majority but which has to take into account the views of the people who vote that we were unable to get for a "meatless motion."

However much he seeks to raise the issue of the referendum, it is the people in Scotland that we are not in earnest. We are.

Government defeats on tax allowances

Treasury (Heywood and Rowston, Lab.) said it would be willing to increase personal tax allowances or lose substantial amounts of revenue, when they were in the middle of serious discussions in a earnings next year.

Mr Rooker said that he would be prepared to accept the possible 2 per cent reduction in taxation foregone in order to obtain the increases in allowances he sought. They could be reduced when they were needed for workers if there were not also increases for pensioners.

Mr David Howell, an Opposition spokesman on pension affairs (Con.) said they ought to try to achieve a lower level of taxation. The more that could be done the less would be the need for special groups for special profits and arrangements for those people particularly hit by the rising tide of inflation.

**Board has
ruled**

Mr Horam, referring to the Government amendment, said the BHI was a temporary blood transfusion, quite different from the concession they were proposing later.

The £50m grant proposed in the Bill was intended to last from the beginning of 1977 until about the middle of 1983, until further legislation could be enacted. The reason for making the reduction to £20m was that the Bill was no longer to run from January 1 but from enactment. Payments totalling £20m had been made so far and the Government did not count against the limit in the Bill.

The £50m was not an entitlement; it was a provision. The NCF would be asked to moderate their need for grants before it was paid.

Mr Moate's amendment was withdrawn and the Government amendment agreed to.

The report stage was concluded and the Bill read the third time.

House adjourned, 10.1 pm.

Jubilee crowns

Mr Denzil Davies, Minister of State, Treasury, in a written reply said: "Approximately 21,800,000 jubilee crowns have

Mr. Walker (Dorchester, Lab) added: later that the Government would try to give a firm and positive response to the Holland report by the end of the month. He hoped Mr Booth would make a statement on it by the end of the month.

Supported it

called "consent" but he called it "seduction by bribery" and there was no question where he knew this had occurred.

The Countess of Loudoun said some people might be born immoral because of the way they are brought up alone. It involved corruption and perversion of others.

The Bishop of Norwich said the Bill was a "very good one." Lord Harris of Greenwich, Minister of State, Home Office, said he was being assisted by his Home Secretary's Criminal Law Revision Committee and the policy advisory committee on sexual offences in the context of a wider review of sexual offences.

We are witnessing (he said) people in the bureaucracy and the Civil Service, undermining the Government in their plans to get the business through.

Mr Foot—There is no question of

study of the issue of the minimum age for homosexuals and had sought and obtained views from a wide range of individuals and individuals. It was too soon to say what the views of the two committees were likely to be.

His view was that they should not be put together in order to determine homosexual acts.

This was an issue of substantial importance where some views were divergent. It was not a simple question. It would not be the subject of a hasty decision without the support of the full report of a fully competent committee.

He would like to see the African to withdraw his Bill today. If he did not he (Lord Harris) would be unable to support it.

The amendment rejecting the Bill was passed by 146 votes to 25—majority, 121.

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill passed its committee stage.

The Import of Live Fish (Scotland) Bill passed its committee stage and the Licensing (Amendment) Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 9.37 pm.

[illegible]

The Countess of Loudoun said some people might be born homosexual, but they should not be encouraged to become so. It involved courage and perversion of others.

The Bishop of Norwich said the Bill was liberal and cruel. The Lord Chancellor said the Minister of State, Home Office, said because of the need to study the question of sexual offences, the Government had set up a committee. It was being considered by the Home Secretary's Criminal Law Revision Committee. The Home Secretary's committee on sexual offences in the context of a wider review of sexual offences.

The Minister of State said the policy advisory committee had made a careful study of the issue of the minimum age range for homosexuals and had recommended that the law should be a wide range of organizations and individuals. It was too soon to say what the views of the two committees would be.

His view was that they should wait until these committees had reported before going further to decriminalize homosexual acts.

This was not an essential question. It was a question of importance where a simple question. It should not be the subject of a long and complicated debate. The support of the full range of a highly competent committee.

He would urge the Earl of Arran to visit the Home Office today. If he did not he (Lord Arran) would be unable to support the Bill.

The amendment rejecting the Bill was carried by 146 votes to 125.

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill passed its committee stage.

The Import of Live Fish (Scotland) Bill passed its committee stage and the Licensing (Amendment) Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 5.37 pm.

Andre Nicolet took the overall lead in the world Flying Dutchman yachting championship today when they impressively won the fourth race on Lake Garda.

They led from the first marker buoy and finished more than 150

Seid and Nilson Sohan. The race was held in gusting force seven winds.

RESULT: 1. J. Hott and A. Nicolet (Switzerland); 2. E. Seid and N. Sohan (Switzerland); 3. W. Rapp and J. Weller (West Germany); 4. R. Huth (Switzerland); 5. P. Knuth and D. Curjel; 6. J. Truett and D. Lewis—*Agente France-Press.*

Injuries are added to insult of defeat for Lions

A test for the elite in Nottingham regatta

Smith and Olympic Star in first place at Malvern

Wesley Kerr
an undergraduate at Cambridge University, contributes
this week's guest column

The remarkable vision of a writer who cannot see

Peter Strafford

**The remarkable
vision of a writer who
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EQUUS
BY PETER SHAFER

[illegible]

2.30 & 7.30—Final 2
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A charming detached house, approached by its own front drive, on the west side of this quiet tree-lined road near Holland Park. The house has a magnificent 120ft rear garden. Main bedroom with bathroom en suite and dressing room. 5 further bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, self-contained flat of 3 rooms, kitchen and bathroom. Gas-fired central heating. Garage. Rear garden. Freehold for Sale.

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Small detached period house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, study, sitting room, large garden, south-facing, overlooking Wandsworth Common. Price £125,000.

FULHAM COTTAGE

A charming detached house, approached by its own front drive, on the west side of this quiet tree-lined road near Holland Park. The house has a magnificent 120ft rear garden. Main bedroom with bathroom en suite and dressing room. 5 further bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, self-contained flat of 3 rooms, kitchen and bathroom. Gas-fired central heating. Garage. Rear garden. Freehold for Sale.

JACKSON ROSE & CO.

246 KING'S ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W.3. 01-352 1066.

FANTASTIC

Unusual Upper Flat, family size, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, study, sitting room, large garden, south-facing, overlooking Wandsworth Common. Price £125,000.

KINGSTON

LUXURY FLAT ON TRAMWAY, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, study, sitting room, large garden, south-facing, overlooking Wandsworth Common. Price £125,000.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Modernised town house, close to the Park, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, study, sitting room, large garden, south-facing, overlooking Wandsworth Common. Price £125,000.

PARLIAMENT HILL, N.W.8

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WALTON GROVE, S.W.17

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OLD HAMPSHIRE

Superb period house, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, study, sitting room, large garden, south-facing, overlooking Wandsworth Common. Price £125,000.

Overseas Property

PARIS-VI

Private to private, in bank exceptionally quiet, luxurious apartment in Saint-Germain-des-Près, Montparnasse and Luxembourg. 300 square meters duplex with large private garden surrounded by gardens, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, study, sitting room, large garden, south-facing, overlooking Wandsworth Common. Price £125,000.

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8 miles from Chichester in a beautiful area, this detached timber framed house (17th century) has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, dining room, study, sitting room, large garden, south-facing, overlooking Wandsworth Common. Price £125,000.

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Career plan

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Circa £3,300 +

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734 4284
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We need the perfect Secretary, with personality, poise and sense of humour for Director of our Oriental Department. Age 25+. Good salary with Christmas bonus.

Telephone Bridget Clarkson, 01-930 7888.

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£3,000

Near Fleet Street for head of Public Relations, ideal for someone keen on the communications world. Must be alert and able to mix with people.

Please contact
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We are seeking two Senior Secretaries (25-40) for a new London office of a large American corporation. The ideal candidate will be a well educated, cultured person, with broad interests and a good personal appearance. Typing essential, shorthand and knowledge of European language (French, German) an asset. The job will include making travel arrangements, appointments, handling personal mail and liaising with top executives. Send full handwritten c.v. with recent photograph to: Mr. W. C. Smith, 13 Cadogan Place, London, S.W.1.

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01-328 3784/5

SECRETARY/PA FOR MANAGING DIRECTOR

Salary up to £3,500 negotiable

Dynamic International Company requires a mature competent and experienced Secretary for busy Managing Director. This is a challenging position, which demands first class secretarial skills, pleasant disposition and good administrative ability. The successful candidate will be able to communicate effectively at all levels. Good working conditions. 3 weeks holiday. St. James's area. Box 1670 A. The Times

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c £3,400

South Audley Street

General Motors need a mature person to work closely within a small permanent group concerned with current European issues—social, economic and political.

The job involves copy typing, general secretarial duties, and maintaining a small library and assisting the Manager—Public Affairs.

Essential qualifications are fast, accurate typing, ability to organise work, and a spirit of cooperation. Some shorthand would be an advantage.

Location is a modern suite of offices in London, W1, and hours are 9 am to 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday. Please write with details of recent experience and day telephone number to:



Alan Norris, General Motors Ltd.,
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PERSONNEL SECRETARY/PA

23-27

Our overworked, but good humoured Personnel Manager needs a really efficient Secretary with previous experience in a Personnel Department to keep him organized and who will become involved in all aspects of his work as a key member of the Department.

There will also be responsibility for an administrative role covering the recruitment of contract personnel and subject to progress the future opportunity for development within the Department.

A high standard of shorthand and typing skills are required as well as a friendly telephone manner, smart appearance and outgoing personality.

We offer a good salary, busy but friendly working environment in offices adjacent to VICTORIA STATION. Flexible hours, profit sharing, Christmas bonus and travel loan schemes, 4 weeks holiday, L.V.s, etc.

Please contact Mrs. Carol Willis on 01-828 1234 or write to the Personnel Department,
HUMPHREYS AND GLASGOW LIMITED,
22 Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1JA.

GERMAN/ENGLISH

Bi-Lingual Secretary/P.A.

Two of our young Engineers are looking for a Secretary/P.A. to help with lots of interesting work in our small Knightsbridge office. As London Agents of one of the E.E.C.'s largest Companies, we have daily contact with our German Colleagues, so there is ample opportunity to use the language—written and spoken. You will also need good shorthand and typing, and a sunny disposition. In return we offer friendly surroundings, salary £3,500, L.V.s and 4 weeks holiday.

Please write to The Company Secretary,
M.A.N.-GHH
(Great Britain) Limited,
62 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3
or phone 01-584 3211

TWO SENIOR EXECUTIVES

of a small Investment Advice Company in the West End dealing with clients require an Audio/Short-hand Secretary, aged around 30. Experience in the investment field is not necessarily important but an ability to take responsibility and initiative, together with a capacity for working under high pressure is vital. Free lunch, 4 weeks' holiday a year and your present holiday commitments will be honoured. Salary is negotiable but we will pay around £3,500 for the right person.

To find out more and to arrange an interview telephone Edward Bond or Robin Duthie on 01-487 4495.

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TELEPHONE MRS. BRASCHLER, 01-242 8899

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Must have conversational French; shorthand and type 60 words per minute. Your own office. Salary will be £5,000+, after tax, per year.

Please mail resume, plus references to Robert H. Adcock, State of Arkansas European Office of the Governor, 437 Avenue Louise, Bte 4, B 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

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Seeks Secretary/P.A. who will move people, with a lot of P.M. work, so M.D. will be able to concentrate on his work. Please write to: ALFRED MARKS BUREAU, 62 Brompton Road, S.W.3, (Opp. Harrods).

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Seeks mature PA/Secretary. 35-45; pleasant offices, St. James's Park. French and audio experience helpful. Flexible full time hours. Salary £3,500. Tel. 581 1904

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£3,500. Neg. Required by Managing Director of a new company being formed in the City. The successful candidate will be a well educated, cultured person, with broad interests and a good personal appearance. Typing essential, shorthand and knowledge of European language (French, German) an asset. The job will include making travel arrangements, appointments, handling personal mail and liaising with top executives. Send full handwritten c.v. with recent photograph to: Mr. W. C. Smith, 13 Cadogan Place, London, S.W.1.

TOP LEGAL SECRETARY

Young Partner in a law firm of Solicitors wants a PA to prove just how reliable and efficient you really are! In return, you will have an interesting and rewarding job. Own office, 4 weeks holiday, and this year's holidays honoured. CAVENDISH PERSONNEL 01-237 7697

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CHESHAM PLACE

£3,500-£3,750

A smart, well spoken Secretary, with some LEGAL EXPERIENCE, to work for a Partner in this small, very prestigious company, acting for a select clientele. There are opportunities to attend conferences with Counsel and Hearings in court. Own office in pleasant surroundings.

Contact: Miss A. Moriarty 01-235 9984

S.W.1.

from £3,700

A Main Board Director who is Vice-Chairman of the Overseas Division of this world famous Company, requires a smart, pleasant Secretary aged 25-35 with first class skills. In addition to normal duties, and extensive travel arrangements, which include purchase and returns of foreign currency, the Secretary will organise the Company flat Staff Dining room. Own luxurious office.

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£3,500 neg.

A rare opportunity for a Secretary to join this company at senior level working for the Marketing and Technical Directors. Secretarial skills will include shorthand and audio. Very interesting work with good promotional prospects within company. Age 25+. Exceptional facilities and benefits.

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Late night opening 6.45 pm every Thursday.
Telephone Mrs Dorothy Allison (Manager) on
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At Peter Robinson Top Shop, we've got one of the most interesting and varied fashion secretarial opportunities you'll find.

It's a chance to work for our Development Director and his team, co-ordinating the development of our fashion ranges. We wouldn't dream of saying it's an easy job, so the successful person will need to be hardworking, well spoken, administratively bright and able to communicate tactfully with a wide variety of people. Good typing and shorthand speeds, too. In return, you'll be working in a warm, friendly atmosphere with intelligent young people. You'll be paid well, receive 4 weeks' holiday and terrific fringe benefits like 25% staff discount, hairdressing and staff restaurant facilities. Does it sound just you? Call Brenda Cohen on 01-636 7700 and tell her why. She'd like to hear from you.

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AUDIO/SECRETARY £3,500
Super opportunity for Secretary with a flair for admin. Supervising the Company's small library.

SECRETARY/PA £3,750
Competent sales orientated person to assist the Chairman of W.I. Design Co.

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Involved in money. Arouse all investment Manager of Insurance Co. E.C.3. needs Secretary in money matters area.

SECRETARY £3,500
Exciting business development area in top American Bank needs help. Excellent fringe benefits.

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Islington £4,300-£4,700

required to take charge of co-ordination, control and general administrative duties in an expanding Architectural Practice opposite Camden Passage.

This is a demanding job in a busy informal atmosphere, offering an attractive salary for the right professional attitude. Sound administrative office management and/or workload planning experience ideal but not essential. Salary range £4,300-£4,700.

Please ring Jenny on 358 5491.

HAMBURG

c£4,000 p.a.

A mature-minded Secretary, bilingual in English and German, is required for this interesting position, working for the Partner of an International Shipping Company based in Hamburg. Accurate shorthand in both languages preferable, ability to undertake responsibility without constant supervision, initiative and a smart appearance are essential qualities. Some previous experience in shipping would be advantageous.

Salary negotiable around £4,000, minimum of 3 weeks' holiday, assistance with accommodation. Please apply to: The Director,
15 Bury St., EC3A 5AH,
01-233 6992

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requires Assistant for Medical Congress Dept. A most interesting position for someone with a flair for organisation and responsibility with excellent remuneration prospects. Must have some travel business experience and good typing speed. Top salary and holiday benefits. Please write to: Mrs. Green, 01-489 4221

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£3,500 N.W.3

To work in attractive shop offering excellent salary and interesting good working conditions to someone with considerable travel experience and the ability to design. Please write to: MR. C. WESTBURY,
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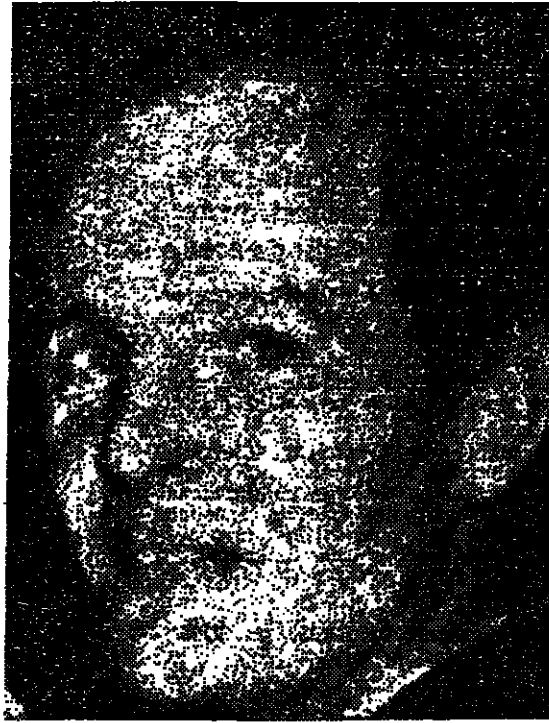
Secretary of International Trading Co. must be professional and able to take initiative. Salary £3,500. Please write to: PEARCE MARKS BUREAU, 62 Brompton Road, S.W.3, 01-237 7697

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We are a unique jewellery shop offering excellent salary and interesting good working conditions to someone with considerable retail experience and the ability to design. Please write to: THE JONES, 123, HAMILTON, HENRIETTA, LONDON NW4 6BN

His political extremism was mixed with a passion for acting

The 'much loved Cambridge don' in the Philby affair



Burgess, Philby and Maclean: now the man who possibly guided them at Cambridge.

News of the doubts attached to the name of Donald Howard Beves in security circles since the early 1950s will come as a severe shock to the Cambridge generations who knew him. For once the cliché of "a much loved don" is not misplaced. The thought of him as possibly the man who guided Philby, Burgess and Maclean in the early years of their treachery will be hard to bear.

A delicious, stimulating companion, touring the city in whichever Rolls-Royce or Bentley he owned at the time, he became one of those "belle figure" of the ancient universities delight to cherish. He read one of the lessons during the celebrated Christmas Eve carol service in King's Chapel and, incongruous in balaclava and gloves, his large frame kept goal in the annual soccer match between the choristers and fellows.

Born on March 6, 1896, the son of a prosperous Brighton timber merchant, he enjoyed the comfort of private means throughout his life. Donald Beves was educated at Rugby and won a classical scholarship to King's College. His arrival at Cambridge was delayed by service in the trenches during the First World War with the Rifle Brigade. The experience left him permanently scarred. As an undergraduate and a young

don, he would wake up screaming in the night.

Beves finally went up to Cambridge in 1919, played rugby, took a first in Classics and a second in French and Spanish. He swiftly made his mark as an undergraduate actor.

On taking his degree, he became a Clerk of the House of Commons in 1922. In his leisure time he prepared a thesis on "The Holy Grail in Early French Poetry" which won him a fellowship at his old college in 1924.

In 1930, the Tutor of King's, A. F. R. Wallaston, was shot dead by an undergraduate. At the early age of 34, Donald Beves assumed the job and held it for 16 years. He was vice-Provost of King's 1946-51.

For all his theatricality and the passion with which he inspired Cambridge acting for 35 years, Beves was in many ways a conventional don in outward appearance, with mildly conservative public views and an easygoing manner. He kept the political extremism which the M15 investigation is thought to have discovered in him deeply concealed, aided, no doubt, by his consummate skills as an actor.

His position as a great cultivator of youth placed him admirably for the distasteful activities ascribed to

him. Not much of an academic, though he was a translator of Rabelais, he contrived to be an exemplary supervisor. He had a fine taste in wine, entertained well and invited all his pupils to dine at least once a year.

How Philby, Burgess and Maclean came into his orbit is not known. Beves was not a member of the Apostles, the secret society of dons and undergraduates from King's and Trinity to which Keynes belonged and Burgess joined in 1932. His friends remember him as neither "Homintern" nor "Comintern", the shorthand used to describe the two strains of fashionable Cambridge life in the 1930s.

Donald Beves was that rare individual a man accepted easily by both the aesthetes and the hearties. He inspired an affectionate couplet from the latter:

"Beves, heaves, and heaves, Beer, I fear!"

Beves never married and lived the life of a bachelor don in King's. With Mrs Camille "Pop" Prior, the widow of Oliver Prior, the pre-war Professor of French who had acted as Beves's patron in the modern language's faculty, he was the life and soul of a wide social circle in

Cambridge around the acting world. They were devoted to each other.

The atmosphere of Mrs Prior's salon at 8 Scroope Street, where Beves spent a great deal of his time, in the years after the Second World War is captured in James Watson's *The Double Helix*. Watson described it as a "high class boarding house" into which he was intent on moving.

"The food at Pop's would offer no improvement over hall, but the French girls who came to Cambridge to improve their English were another matter. A seat at Pop's dinner table, however, could not be asked for directly. Instead . . . the best tactic for getting a foot in the door was to commence French lessons with Pop. . . . If I suited Pop's fancy, I might be invited to one of her sherry parties and meet her current crop of foreign girls."

Donald Beves died on July 6, 1961, aged 65, and was widely mourned. He left 250 pieces of his magnificent collection of glass to the Fitzwilliam Museum, £5,000, his books and his place to King's College.

This week *The Times Saturday Review* features the late Tom Driberg's fascinating recollections of a visit to Guy Burgess in Moscow.

Peter Hennessy

A misread and misunderstood agreement

What the Helsinki declaration was really all about

The Final Act

is a vast, complex and finely balanced package conceding very few of the points the Soviet Union hoped to gain

Today in Belgrade officials from 35 states gathered to start the long process of reviewing the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was signed two years ago in Helsinki by the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada, and all the states of east and west Europe except Albania.

First they will try to agree on procedures which could take several weeks, at least. Then they must fix a date for the main conference. This could start in early October and finish by the end of the year, but there are many differences between East and West, and some within the western alliance, so nothing can be predicted with much confidence except that a frustrating time will be had by all.

Public interest in the conference has grown a lot since Helsinki, largely because Soviet and east European dissidents have been invoking the agreement as a defence of human rights, but misconceptions and misinterpretations still abound. In fact, few if any international agreements can have been as widely misunderstood as this one.

When it was signed, many westerners mistakenly thought it was a sell-out to the Russians. Others dismissed it as a collection of meaningless declarations signifying nothing, but a waste of time. The Americans were not much interested. A few optimists said it marked the dawning of a new era of détente. Harold Wilson said it made the congress of Vienna look like a tea party. Now the optimists are disappointed, while some of the people who were quickest to denounce it have become the most vocal in demanding its implementation because they have found it contains cudgels with which to beat the Russians. Meanwhile the Americans have become so enthusiastic that Europeans worry they may rock the boat too much.

Most of the early misunderstandings could have been avoided if people had read the texts, or if they had not been taken in by Soviet attempts to conceal a diplomatic setback by claiming it a success and by talking as if rejected Soviet drafts had in fact been included.

The fact is that the Final Act is a vast, complex and finely balanced package conceding very few of the points the Soviet Union most hoped to gain. It does not sanctify Soviet hegemony over eastern Europe. It does not freeze the frontiers of Europe. It does not limit the Soviet sphere of influence. It does not en-

dorse the so-called "Brezhnev doctrine" of limited sovereignty which was invented to justify the invasion of Czechoslovakia. It does not give the Soviet government control over the movement of people and information. It does not even have legal status. Nor, on the other hand, is it just a declaration on human rights. It is a political undertaking intended to provide a broad framework for improving European relations.

There are four sections, or "baskets", as they became known, which participants threw in proposals during negotiation. The first contains 10 principles guiding relations between states, including respect for sovereignty, non-use of force, inviolability of frontiers, non-intervention in internal affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, self-determination and fulfilment of obligations under international law. It also contains military confidence-building measures, including the requirement to give prior notification of certain military manoeuvres.

Basket II is a long section on co-operation in economics, science, technology and the environment. Basket III is about co-operation in humanitarian and other fields, including human contacts, the freer movement of people and information, family reunification, education and culture.

Basket IV is about follow-up and commits the signatories to this year's meeting in Belgrade, where they are supposed to have a thorough exchange of views both on the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and of the tasks defined by the

Conference as well as in context of the questions raised by the latter, on deepening of their mutual relations, the improvement of security and the development of co-operation in Europe, and development of the process of détente in the future.

The enterprise suffered through from having to reconcile two different concepts of détente. The Russians want a protective codification of existing relations and a substitute peace treaty sanctifying the results of Second World War. The West insisted that détente is a lower barrier and open, freer contacts between east and west Europe. By the time texts emerged after nearly 18 years of negotiation, the 10-point concept had largely vanished. The Soviet Union, given way all along the line, to get the conference.

The texts now say "frontiers can be changed peacefully by mutual consent". The principle of self-determination is recognized. Individual rights are balanced against the rights of states. Elastic phrases about respecting national "sovereignty" have been replaced by additional restrictions on intervention. There is no reference to the Soviet doctrine of peaceful co-existence. Nor do the principles of behaviour apply only to relations between states with different social systems, as the Soviet Union originally proposed, since this would have meant they did not apply, for instance, to relations between Russia and Czechoslovakia. They apply to everyone, have even been mentioned in defence of Concorde's landings in the United States.

Principle VII contains a key statement that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is "an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations and co-operation among nations". This is the most formal justification for discussing human rights in the context of détente. The Russia reply by quoting Principle on non-intervention, but wording does not support the interpretation and in any case all principles are stated to be of "primary importance". None can take precedence over another.

The texts, therefore, represent a considerable and useful approximation of what the West and what they actually achieved? I will discuss this in another article tomorrow.

Richard Dav

Bernard Levin

A lethal dose, but be sure Labour will swallow it whole

I was saying yesterday that it is no use relying on Mr Callaghan to stop the Labour Party falling into the hands of people whose ultimate aim is the destruction of democracy. But the problem is even worse than that, as the two party reports published even as I was writing the words make starkly clear. They have been widely reported, and I need not go into great detail; but they can be usefully summarized by quoting some headlines that appeared over the stories in question. The proposals concerning the method of electing the leader of the Labour Party (one that the method should remain as it is, with the choice confined to MPs, the second is that the election should be decided by the party conference, the third that the decision should be made by an electoral college in which the MPs would be in a fairly small minority) appeared in the *Sunday Express* under the headline "Benn and the Left bid for power".

No doubt, the committee which drew up the proposals was firmly in the hands of the left, and they naturally wish to improve their chances of capturing the leadership. As it happens (the point was made in this newspaper's leading article yesterday), the party conference is becoming slightly less reliable from the left's point of view, but only slightly; for the immediately foreseeable future a leadership election confined to the conference would

be very likely to result in the choice of the left's candidate—certainly very much more likely than that the PLP would vote. And the electoral college proposed, with its weighting in favour of the unions and constituency parties, would very probably produce the same result.

The implications are obvious; they are not, however, my concern today. Before saying what is, let me refer to the other story—the one about the "draft manifesto" before the NEC. This has now been reduced in status to "a campaign document", and is to be redrafted; as it stood, and probably as it emerged too, it would involve taking the Labour Party into a position from which it could only move in the direction of a totally Marxist state. No doubt that was the idea, and no doubt the question of the increasingly totalitarian powers that would be required to maintain a state based on such principles can be left until later. Again, the implications are obvious; but again, I want today to consider a rather different point, suggested by the main front-page headline in this newspaper on Monday, over the story of the proposed programme, which was "State powers demand in draft manifesto may divide Labour".

On the whole, I think it is unlikely that the Labour Party is about to abandon its present system of confining the choice of its leader to those men and women who have

All will loyally abide by a party manifesto which would lead to the ruin of our democracy

been elected to Parliament; on the whole, I think it is also unlikely that the party is about to endorse a programme that would involve the socialization of Britain. I wish I could put it more strongly than that, and say that neither proposal stands the smallest chance of being accepted, but unfortunately I cannot; the present leadership (I do not simply mean its leader) of the Labour Party is such that no guarantee can be given. Certainly it is already virtually impossible to conceive of the resistance to these proposals being based on grounds of principle; it will be couched in terms of tactics and of electoral dangers, and those resisting the suggestions will from the outset be seeking a compromise that will satisfy those putting the suggestions forward.

Which brings me to the point. The two stories I have discussed were both written in terms of the

split they would cause in the Labour Party. Rank, for instance, to the *Sunday Express* report of the leadership proposals: "...drive a wedge between Labour MPs and the rest of the Party . . . a spectacular row . . . party will be plunged into crisis . . . not a shred of doubt that the outcome will split the Labour Party. . . . And now attend to the manifesto story in *The Times*: "...dispute between the Government and the Labour Party's National Executive Committee . . . stage is therefore being set for a battle. . . ."

And I have to ask: what reason have we to suppose that those in the Labour Party who reject these proposals, who know what they are, and who know why they were put forward, will make it clear that the proposals are unacceptable on principle, and will not become less

so if they are adopted as official party policy?

In case there is still room for the point to be missed, let me remove any possible ambiguity. How many Labour Ministers or MPs, among those who regard the proposals not merely as electorally unwise but fundamentally libidinal, will resign from the party if, having fought against the plans, they nevertheless find themselves obliged to defend them because they have been accepted as part of Labour's programme?

The answer is that with the exception of Mr Prentice, who has already ceased, to all intents, to be a member of the Labour Party, none will refuse to swallow such a lethal dose. All will loyally abide by a party manifesto which would lead to the ruin of our democracy, and all will acquiesce in the adoption of a method of electing the party's leader designed to ensure the election of a candidate willing to preside over that ruin.

One or two may say now that they would not accept such a proposal and would leave the party if it decided to follow that road, but they will give such a pledge in a Whistonian spirit; feeling that the proposals will not be accepted exactly as they now stand, the moderates will always be able to rely later on the changes in small print to get them out of any serious consequences of their momentary rush of courage to the head. But

that will be the full extent of the resistance.

In discussion, of course, the moderates will fight vigorously against the proposals, even on principle. At ministerial meetings, for instance, I am sure that Mrs Williams will strongly oppose them; she may well do so in public speeches. But the motto of the Labour moderates is *fortiter in modo, suaviter in res*; if the economic proposals become part of the Labour election manifesto, she will be obliged to defend them on the hustings, and if the party should be in a position to enact the programme, she may well have to speak in its favour, if called upon to do so, in the House of Commons, and certainly vote for it in the final election. In the meantime, if the leadership election rules are changed, and Mr Benn or Mr Foot—or Mr Mikardo, for that matter, or even Mrs Joan Maynard—should then be elected leader, I fear she will find that the party is more important than her personal differences, and that she will therefore be staying in it.

I single out Mrs Williams, though my comments apply to all her moderate colleagues, because she is the most likely to wish her strength of character and conviction, is prepared to compromise, we can hardly expect Mr Healey or Dr Owen or Mr Mason or Mr Rees

to stand firm. I may, of course, ask why I am so sure that Mrs Williams is prepared to compromise, to which I reply that she, compared with the rest of the Labour moderates, has already compromised on every move made on from liberty by her party, and no longer feel obliged to give it the benefit of the doubt; the only reason as far as I am concerned is that there is a point beyond which she will compromise no more, and prove that she is as honest, democratic and principled as she widely supposed to be.

I seem to remember having written much the same things about Roy Jenkins, and even about Callaghan; no doubt a couple years from Mr Welden, say, or Mackintosh, if Mrs Williams has then been written off, it will represent the last hopes of moderation within the Labour Party. At that, it will hardly be necessary and even if it is it will probably be permissible, to speak in praise about the totalitarianism of the Labour Party. But for moment it is both necessary and permissible, whence my words today, and for that matter yesterday, I confidently expect you to be read with averted eyes, an further turn to be taken in course down the Labour Party ever-descending spiral to tyranny. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1977

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

When GBS clipped the wings of rumour

On Mar 20, 1898, George Bernard Shaw wrote a "very private" missive to an impresario called Hecht, denying rumours of his impending marriage to Charlotte Frances Payne-Townshend.

"If you can catch that little bird", he wrote, "tie his beak up tight. . . . Meanwhile I shall do nothing but shake my head. . . . I have not married it will have to be done very secretly." These letters and notes, to Hecht, which have not been published, make fascinating reading. They are in the private collection of Hecht's granddaughter, Madame Audley, who has just opened in *The Glass Menagerie* at all places, the Sir's Theatre in London.

A letter dated August 28, 1896, shows that things do not change much. "The fact is", Shaw writes, "that there is hardly an actor-manager in London who is not sitting tightly on some play that he will neither produce himself nor let anyone else produce."

Unfortunately, there is this

peculiarity about theatrical business—that managers, when they are actors, will refuse all offers and disregard all interests sooner than allow a good part of a good play to get into the hands of a professional rival."

Three years later, Shaw talks of his new play (*Caesar and Cleopatra*) which he had written for Forbes Robertson and Mrs Patrick Campbell—"a magnificent, recklessly expensive play". The trouble was that "Forbes has no theatre and no money. Macbeth having cleaned him out."

Semaphorism

Normally, I would not devote much space to political apophorisms from Yugoslavia; so many are pouring out of every country, too. But there is a particular relevance about the following selection because EEC diplomats are now meeting in Belgrade to prepare the ground for autumn's East-West Helsinki review conference.

The apophorisms are by Zarko Petan, a Slovene theatrical producer of note.

"The cautious person travels from capitalism to socialism with a return ticket." "We have paid too dearly for freedom

when we consider its quality." "Love of the fatherland is almost always platonic on both sides." "Cowards' hearts beat faster than heroes, but last longer."

Remembering Mr Petan's artistic affiliation, I like his non-political aphorism, too. "In the theatre, the director is God—but unfortunately, the actors are atheists."

Spice of life

An uninvited sparrow flew into, round, and eventually out of the blue-and-white Orchid Room of the Dorchester hotel yesterday. A lunch guest, without any pretence at concealment, emptied his unclean slice of lamb into a serviette and took it home to his six cats. Jimmy Saville's cigar smoke all but obliterated the Union Jack emblazoned on his pillar-box red jumper.

I need scarcely add that the occasion was a show business one. It was, in fact, the Variety Club's ladies luncheon—the only occasion in the year when this admirable charitable organization, a bastion of male chauvinism as someone described it yesterday, is infiltrated en masse by the opposite sex.



PAGE

The breakfast this year was in honour of Eric Morley, the Mecca man, whose humanitarian work for handicapped and deprived children has helped to raise millions of pounds over the years. Mr Morley, who somehow looked all wrong away from his Miss World contest, is current president of Variety Club International.

I can best give you an idea of the informality of the occasion by reporting that permission to smoke was given after the terrain de turbot and pistaches and before the selle d'agneau forcé.

Archetypal goonery

William (The Great) McGonagall, the 19th century eccentric, who was considered a literary joke in his lifetime and was described contemporaneously by Punch as "the greatest bad verse writer of his age" has just had his prolific collection of bizarre poems translated into Russian, Chinese, Japanese and (no, wait for it) Thai. One in the Thai for his detractors' surely.

McGonagall first had his *Poetic Gems* published in 1877. He died a pauper in Edinburgh in 1902 but is now a cult figure, notably behind the Iron Curtain. The copyright for his work is still held by the Dundee firm of David Winter and Son, which first printed his penny broad-sheets.

Apparently one of McGonagall's greatest fans is Shaikh Youssef, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, who ordered a copy recently of "McGonagall and Tommy Atkins", a volume of verses about the British Army. The Shaikh was reportedly much impressed with "The Battle of Omdurman" and has

hung that verse in a gold frame in a place of honour. Later this month in Dundee there is to be a festival in honour of McGonagall when Spike (The Greater) Willigan and Peter (The Greaser) Sellers will lead tributes to the world's worst poet.

Double dealing

Edward Heath, seller and author of deception, confessed yesterday that he has no interest in sailing round the world. Not to be added, through any lack of requests for him to do so, which raised a laugh among the bookellers when he opened the 19th Antiquarian Book Fair in London.

He had, however, made an important discovery about book selling, which was that dealers formed two groups: those who marked a book when they got it and never changed the price, and those who reviewed it every three or six months.

"I shall visit all those on my first list and sell to them a second, a simple and enjoyable way of ensuring something to live on in my very old age," Mr Heath said, with a laugh and a youthful sting.

Looking to the future

Inviting me to the opening of a cricket pavilion next door to Buck House, the PR girl's apologetically, that I ought to bring my own wellies.

"Bonsplan" is in fact in basement of Bonsplan (practically adjoined to the Hobart House coal seam). Bonsplan, through t. Bonsplan, announced yesterday that with immediate effect they are to sponsor cricket to the tune of £10 this season. The scheme will be operated in conjunction the Cricketers' Association (rebel circles here, you note) and awards will go to the county cricketer of the year, the outstanding captain, the most important English-qualified cricketer and there is a surprise award of £500.

Each month for the rest of the summer (what summer there will also be an event to the county cricketer of the month, the best batting bowler, performances month and a fielding/wicket-keeping award.



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HOW TO THE SECOND TRY

Foot's statement on devolution to the House of Commons yesterday served only to emphasise the Government's predicament. They have failed to get Scotland and Wales Bill through this session partly because of the Bill's evident merits, partly because ministers are so intransigent in responding to constructive proposals for improvement, but also partly because there is no majority in the present House for devolution measures. The Bill is blocked for its virtues as well as its faults. That is what makes the Government's task so perplexing. They cannot afford to let the matter drop for fear of undermining their position in Scotland still further. They cannot put all the blame on other parties because everyone knows that if their own Bill were solid they would be able to put a devolution Bill on statute. Yet there can be no assurance that even the most sagely devised measure will fare any better next session than the Scotland and Wales Bill in this.

Indeed, to make matters worse, the next Bill the majority will encounter, if it is proposed to give a Scottish assembly tax-raising powers, for example, some waverers may swing to the opposition. So may they if Westminster takes less authority to interfere on matters of detail in fields where the assembly is to be given responsibility, even though detailed interference is more likely to jeopardise the future of the United Kingdom by provoking conflict.

There is no way of avoiding this dilemma by means of a select committee at this stage. Mr Foot was justified in regarding the disagreement with the Conservatives over the terms of reference of such a committee as reflecting deeper disagreement over its purpose. The balance of opinion within the Conservative Party now would simply not permit the leadership to commit itself to any devolution scheme worthy of the name. All that may be different after the next election if the SNP has given the Conservatives a fright by increasing its representation at Westminster considerably. It would be misguided, therefore, to rule out permanently a select committee or similar device for all-party negotiations. It is just that the necessary conditions do not yet exist.

This does not mean that the Government would be justified

in simply putting their heads down and charging on regardless of everybody else. They are bound to continue consultations with the Liberals under the terms of the pact with them, and these particular discussions must be of more substance than others because devolution is one of the main questions on which ministers will have to satisfy the Liberals if the pact is to be renewed. The Government should also be far more receptive than they were last time to suggestions from any quarter as the Bill proceeds.

But in preparing the Bill—or Bills: Mr Foot could not even confirm yesterday that there will be separate ones for Scotland and Wales—they should concentrate on trying to achieve the impossible of neutralising each different kind of criticism, not even on drafting clauses to satisfy theoretical majorities of shifting votes. It would be better just to try to devise as coherent a Bill as possible. In that case, if they fail they would at least have something worthy to put before the Scottish electorate. That means that in terms especially of finance, the powers and the method of electing the assembly, they should be far more radical than they were last time or most people expect them to be now.

There can be no justification for a police strike or the right to strike again—it cuts across a police officer's oath of allegiance and his vows of office, but in the name of justice and honour immediate steps should be taken to restore police officers to their rightful place in the community. Then and only then are we likely to get and deserve the kind of continued police service we are all entitled to.

NORMAN FROST,
Retired Chief Constable,
Weston,
Wiltshire,
Somerset.
June 7.

Police claims on the community

From Mr Norman Frost
Sir, During the course of the First World War the police in this country were grossly underpaid, while industrial wages rose in many fields. This led to considerable discontent and, as a result, to police strikes in London and Liverpool, etc. in 1919.

A government committee under the chairmanship of Lord Desborough produced a report which was implemented in 1923. It provided for free housing or an allowance in lieu, boot allowances and a pension of two-thirds pay after 30 years or half pay after 25 years. The pay structure for constables was based, I believe, on 20 per cent above the average industrial wage index.

These factors, together with other advantages, attracted to the police service a lot of recruits of a high calibre and produced a happy, contented and very efficient police force. Since that time the advantages have been whittled away by the improvement in wages and conditions of work which have so rightly been achieved in the industrial field and by the majority of workers. As the police have been left far behind, I understand the comparative figure is now about 83 per cent of the average wage—a far cry from Desborough's 120 per cent of the 1920s.

There can be no justification for a police strike or the right to strike again—it cuts across a police officer's oath of allegiance and his vows of office, but in the name of justice and honour immediate steps should be taken to restore police officers to their rightful place in the community. Then and only then are we likely to get and deserve the kind of continued police service we are all entitled to.

NORMAN FROST,
Retired Chief Constable,
Weston,
Wiltshire,
Somerset.
June 7.

Compulsory wearing of seat belts

From Dr J. D. J. Hayward
Sir, Interference with the rights of the citizen has always been a major cause of controversy over public health legislation, and the extent to which this is justified is not always related to the beneficial results on rates of mortality and morbidity. The interference with the right of privacy which is implicit in the statutory notification of certain diseases, such as scurvy, which are no longer important, provides an example. But it has not so far been challenged by the public.

Raising the proportion of seat belt wearing among front seat occupants from the present level to 80 per cent would reduce the annual number of fatal or serious injuries by about 13,000. This can be achieved only by legislation. But it can be argued that the citizen who is going to be involved in a serious road accident is entitled to risk being killed or maimed in preference to a life of paralysis or semi-paralysis by not wearing a seat belt. Just as it can be argued that the citizen who is going to be involved in a serious road accident is entitled to risk being killed or maimed in preference to a life of paralysis or semi-paralysis by not wearing a seat belt. Just as it can be argued that the citizen who is going to be involved in a serious road accident is entitled to risk being killed or maimed in preference to a life of paralysis or semi-paralysis by not wearing a seat belt.

Most European countries have now introduced seat belt legislation and their car designers will assume that seat belts will be worn when distributing, installing and other safety factors in the interior design of vehicles. The parts of the vehicle into which the body of the belted occupant comes into contact in a crash are entirely different from those liable to cause injuries to unbelted occupants. Car designers will have to continue to assume that belts will not be worn and a very unsatisfactory situation may result. Finally, the increased tendency to resort to smaller cars in the interests of conserving fuel means that the risk of injury in the case of an accident, and the wearing of seat belts becomes even more important.

JOHN HAYWARD,
Principal Deputy Secretary,
British Medical Association,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
June 12.

Political prisoners after Helsinki

From Mrs Ludmila Alexeyeva
Sir, The preparatory conference designated by the Helsinki Final Act to review the progress of its implementation opens on Wednesday, June 15.

How disappointing this progress is, particularly in the field of human rights, can be gauged from the fact that the citizens of the communist countries who expressed concern about it have themselves become the target of repression. This indicates the failure of the USSR and of the countries of Eastern Europe to observe the solemn agreement signed by them in Helsinki.

We protest against the continuous persecution of those who are not in prison because of their decision to take the agreement seriously. We demand the immediate release of political prisoners in the USSR and Eastern Europe and in particular of people arrested in connexion with activities aimed at the implementation of the Final Act. These include members of the Helsinki "watchdog" committees in the Soviet Union—Orlov, Staranovsky, Rudenko, Camaschidze, etc.—Charter 77 movement in Czechoslovakia: Lederer, Machacek and Lastuvka; of the Workers' Defence Committee in Poland: Michnik, Kuron and many others.

As we demand that the western delegates should conform to the formal stipulation of the Helsinki Final Act for the Belgrade conference and engage in a serious scrutiny of what has happened to its recommendations, we demand that the USSR should explicitly and in earnest will have shameful, if not catastrophic consequences for both Eastern and Western Europe.

Yours,
LUDMILA ALEXEYeva,
ANDREY AMALIK,
VLADIMIR SUKOVSKIY,
NATALYA GORBANEVSKAYA,
JAN KAVAN,
LESZEK KOLAKOWSKI,
LEONID PLYUSHCHIK,
MARIA SINIAVSKI.
June 13.

Candidates' expenses

From Mr Oliver Stutchbury
Sir, While I support nearly all the suggestions made by Sir John Colville in his imaginative new design for democracy in Britain (*The Times*, June 11), it is a pity that he should propose that reasonable election expenses for candidates to his new assemblies should be provided from the public purse. Unless a person "with substantial support" (Sir John's criterion for eligibility for public funds) is able to raise enough money for his candidature, then he is incompetent or irresolute or both.

Sir John's wholly admirable aim is to keep the political parties out of the selection of candidates, but he need not worry on that score because (left to themselves) two of the national party machines will shortly be reduced to the incompetence with which they are currently being run—and not a moment too soon.

He who pays the piper calls the tune and one of the things we must insist on in the new system, is that no tier of government has any say over who is a "suitable" person for candidature. It would then prevent the cost little rackets in evidence at Westminster where the politicians and their advisers (no matter which government is in power) appoint one another to all the influential jobs as being the "most suitable" to run our country despite ample evidence that between them they have been running a rich country into bankruptcy for most of their working lives.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER STUTCHBURY,
45 South Street,
East Sussex.
June 9.

Sion College library

From the President of Sion College
Sir, On page 18 of your issue of June 14 you say that "The great library of Sion College... was sold at Sotheby's yesterday". Kindly permit me to correct the record.

Out of well over 100,000 books only 76 have been sold, albeit on important to collectors, as the price indicates. The library, however, remains in full use. The sale has naturally caused distress among bibliophiles, as witness your own correspondence columns, but probably no distress to them than to Sion College.

The college's library is perhaps the finest theological library in England (other than the copyright libraries). It is a working library and not a museum. The financial situation was such that either we sold some, or only some, of our treasures and keep the college and its library going. We have not parted with a single theological work. With increased finances it is our hope that we may now be able to do so.

We first issued an appeal to which the City responded generously; but, even so, the stark alternatives remained. After much deliberation and the best advice, we decided to sell some, and only some, of our treasures and keep the college and its library going. We have not parted with a single theological work. With increased finances it is our hope that we may now be able to do so.

Yours very sincerely,
NICOLA LODGE,
48 Holland Street, W.8.

Unhonoured spouse

From Ms Nicola Lodge
Sir, Can you tell me why, in this age of equality between the sexes, often enforced by Government decree, when a man receives an accolade his wife becomes a lady. Yet for a husband who has encouraged, supported and perhaps sacrificed his own career in the promotion of an ambitious woman when she receives a title he remains a mere mister? I would be obliged if one of your erudite readers could reply.

Yours very sincerely,
NICOLA LODGE,
48 Holland Street, W.8.

He desperate overcrowding of prisons

Home Secretary's Advisory Panel on the Penal System and Parole Board have both published constructive reports dealing in their different ways, with same issue: how to reduce appallingly high level of the crime population, without at the same time putting society under significantly increased risk. The Panel recommends that shorter sentences on the "first-time criminal" than do at present. It bases its proposal on criminological evidence which indicates that at the end of the sentencing process, the actual length served little relevance to the safety of the community or to the offender's prospects of not re-offending, and on the view that the first offender, it is the timing of the sentence, the initial shock, that produces the necessary deterrent effect on him. The Panel's view is shared by a wide body of respectable opinion and it is hoped that judges and magistrates will accord them the respect they deserve.

The Parole Board's annual report testifies to another year in which it has managed to put an increasingly adventurous approach to the release of prisoners on parole without any significant rise in low, acceptable, failure rate. The Board is ever beginning to have to do with the generation of derelicts who, before the institution of the death penalty, have been executed. In their case the provision of the true reasons could have a far more traumatic effect on the prisoner than a bald, unmotivated refusal.

There are, however, a number of grounds for not providing reasons for refusal. The reasons would inevitably have to be set out in vague and crude form. There would be little scope for being able to elect a decision based on a combination of reasons, none of which necessarily predominated. The Parole Board may be in possession of sensitive information not known to the prisoner himself, about his family outside, for instance. In that case the provision of the true reasons could have a far more traumatic effect on the prisoner than a bald, unmotivated refusal.

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IT REALLY REASSURING

of the remotest compensation of a grey and thundery mer is that it reduces the tiny small prospect of an epidemic of poliomyelitis. This, in spite of the weather, prospect has appeared distinctly less remote than usual. Ten cases have been reported in the last year and two in 1976. The number of children vaccinated against poliomyelitis and tetanus has fallen 27 per cent since 1972. The risk to unvaccinated individuals is slight if they are few in number, but becomes much more if there are enough of them to make it easy for the disease to spread.

It was partly because of fears of this kind that Mr Ennals announced yesterday that the Government accepted in principle its responsibility to pay compensation for serious injuries sustained by children vaccinated against poliomyelitis. Inoculation has become less popular because of poliomyelitis and because of the fear of the disease. It is a pity that the Government accepted in principle its responsibility to pay compensation for serious injuries sustained by children vaccinated against poliomyelitis. Inoculation has become less popular because of poliomyelitis and because of the fear of the disease.

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Balance-sheet of EEC

From Mr William Pickles
Sir, Mr Edward Hillson (June 11) says that "one of the aims" of the European Community, namely, the preservation of peace in Europe, has been achieved. The Bishop of Manchester and Chichester made the same claim two days earlier.

My own opinion, based on some years of study and teaching, is that the EEC and its related institutions have been a disaster because, from 1944 onwards, there was no longer any threat to peace arising from conflicts in Western Europe. In other words, what your three correspondents see as cause, I see as effect. If any one of them can offer any evidence—or even only argument—for their view of the cause-effect relationship, I should be delighted to learn of it.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM PICKLES,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
June 11.

Women's intuition

From Dr Barbara Reynolds
Sir, It is good to know that psychologists have proved that there is such a thing as female intuition. The Italian poet Ariosto, knew all about it. In *Orlando Furioso* he says:

The advice of women, if spontaneous, is better than if pondered, well and weighed. That is their special gift which bounteous Heaven, with countless more, to them has made. But men's advice (and this is curious) Which a mature reflection does not aid, Is rarely good, but must be long thought out. Each aspect studied, sifted every doubt.

I am, Sir, yours intuitively,
BARBARA REYNOLDS,
The University of Nottingham,
University Park,
Nottingham.
June 11.

Don Giovanni's escape

From Mr Peter Shaffer
Sir, I write in support of Peter Hall and his excellent production of *Don Giovanni* at Glyndebourne. Every time I read his review I am amazed at how he has denounced him for willfully spoiling the all-important end of the First Act—the crown of the arch—by not permitting the Great Seducer a spectacular escape from his vengeful accusers. I was interested in this general response, since Mr Hall's direction of the scene in question had offered me personally one of the most thrilling and satisfying moments I have ever received. An opera house, as traditionally played, has always seemed to me to be a weirdly feeble affair. It usually involves a good deal of "Well, get you yet" gesturing from three principal singers; a chorus of chorists in peasant blouses making "Whatever next?" faces for all they're worth; five seconds of "My-turn-your-turn" swordplay, and five more of muddled escape for the Don set to music quite obviously too brief for the purpose. Mr Hall's version has achieved the near-miracle of changing this pointless carry-on into an immense and energetic climax, simply by respecting the original libretto.

The fact is that the author, Da Ponte, doesn't call for an escape in any form at all. On the contrary, he makes Giovanni stand his ground and cry out to all to hear. Let the world hear nothing will make me afraid! "Faithful as usual to his writer," Mr Hall virtually does make the world fall, and then shows us the Don hurling out an extraordinary gesture of defiance as it does.

I shall long remember the moment when Zerlina screamed in sexual fear and the crowd of peasants, like unwilling guests in De Sed's castle, scrambled away in their clogs. Suddenly lightning ripped the air; the casket at the back flew open; the heavy cart-wheel lamos began to sway from

Racing costs

From the President of the Racehorse Owners' Association
Sir, Your leader (June 6) headed "Footing the bill for our racehorses" is welcomed by the Racehorse Owners' Association as a balanced appraisal of the Economist Intelligence Unit's survey of the financial requirements of the racing industry. One of the paragraphs refers to the equation between owners' costs and prize money available in 1976 which requires correction and amplification.

Basic training and racing costs in 1976 were estimated at £28m. This cost takes no account of capital outlay on which owners can expect to lose between 25 per cent and 30 per cent on subsequent resale of their racehorses and a great deal more for hurdlers and steeplechasers. After the deduction of percentages for trainers, jockeys, stable staff, etc., the amount of available prize money in 1976 for owners was only £8m which included the owners' contribution of £2.5m.

As for the EIU survey itself, there is no doubt that the racing industry has found its report in many respects unpalatable and unacceptable.

With the benefit of hindsight, the

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the ceiling, and the darkening of the cabin of the doomed ship like a rising storm. Through that stage window had burst the great wind of Legend. A provincial Spanish saloon was transformed before our eyes into a place of mythical events.

Most certainly this Don Giovanni did not escape through a backdoor, or into wings. Quite the reverse, he stalked towards us through the disintegrating world of a desperate figure in a black dress, flanked by black enemies, until he reached the very lip of the stage where he stood, scared but unyielding in the centre of this mental hurricane, to make the audience, a savage, crooked bow—the same bow we had seen him make to the women he had seduced and then abandoned. Marvellous!

At one stroke Hall had solved the central problem of directing *Don Giovanni*. By making the scene dramatic, he could finally link the two disparate acts of this strange piece. By conjuring a surreal storm in a dining room at the end of Act 1, he could convincingly accommodate a chorus of devils singing under a dining table at the end of Act 2. And by choosing domestic Goya to begin the opera—all those grilles and parasols—he could choose black Goya to fulfil and then end it, and so unify what in my experience has never been unified before.

Typically, this stroke—theatrical, beautiful and totally faithful to the libretto—was the one to be singled out for special attack by the majority of critics. On reflection I cannot claim to be too surprised; but I am still, after all these years of reading musical journalism, disappointed by encountering the staidness of response, indifference to aesthetics, and sheer unfairness which seem to characterise so much of it.

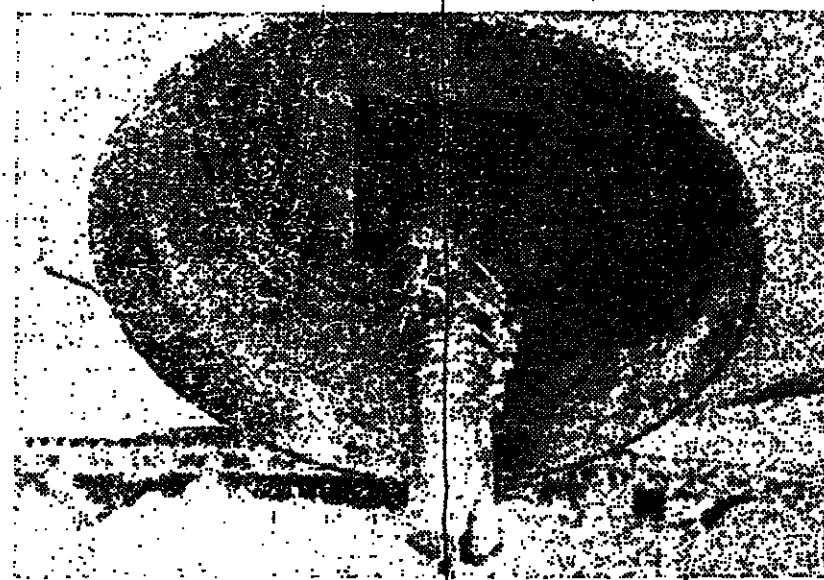
Yours faithfully,
PETER SHAFFER,
11 Tregunter Road, SW10.

"From £10,000 a month to £100,000 is only another nought. But we would never have made it without the Midland"

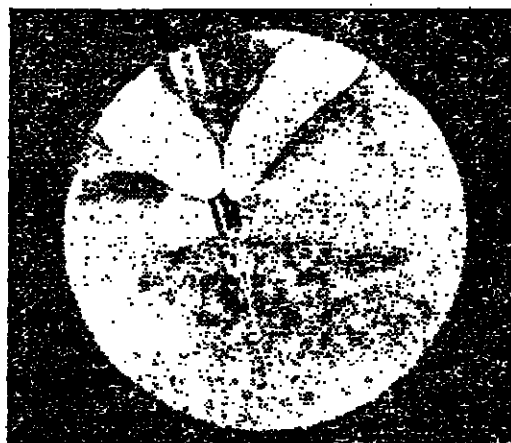
Norfolk Bridge Engineering Group,
comprising Tower Drilling Equipment Company Limited,
Tower-Diamond Products Limited,
R.J.D. Fabrications Limited and
Norfolk Bridge Engineering Company Limited



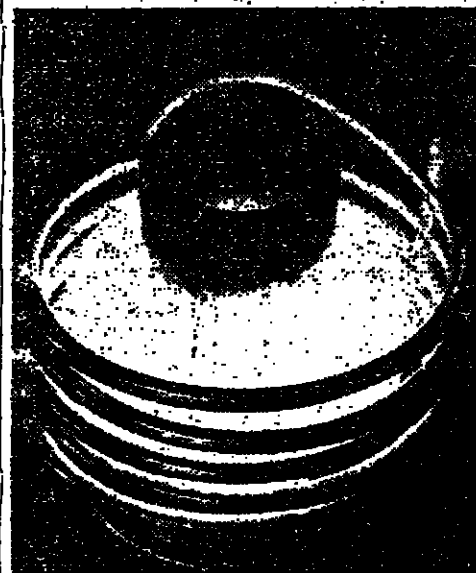
Norfolk Bridge founder-directors, John F. Ashley (right) and Ron Sykes.



Derbyshire worn's eye view of dust extractor and drilling bit.



One drilling bit can use up to £1,500-worth of industrial diamonds.



Bonding diamonds onto the body of a rotary diamond bit.



Repairing the mast of an off-shore drilling rig.



Drill head and magazine.

"More economical insurance"

Company insurance is another area where Midland Bank Group specialist expertise has proved especially valuable.

"We have men going underground, and we insure them at competitive rates. We're agents for a range of German drilling machines, and when we're bringing equipment from Germany there can be £500,000-worth of cover involved."

"Until Midland Bank Insurance Services took us in hand we were under-insured on some things, over-insured on others."

"They have put everything together and given us some very good advice. We have Group policies now for everything—they're easier to understand and more economical."

"Drilling for the future"

"Drilling is probably the most dramatic industry in the world right now—everyone is looking for energy, for minerals, for water, everywhere they can think of."

"We find that having Midland Bank with our Company is like having a third hand. We can discuss so many of our future developments with Midland Bank Group companies."

"I remember in our early days together, when we reached £10,000 turnover in a single month for the first time. I said to John Ashley the time would come when we'd be doing £100,000 a month and, when he looked surprised, I told him—why not? It's only another nought!"

"But we would never have made it without the Midland."

"Valuable—thanks to Midland"

But as John F. Ashley explains: "We reckon you're only valuable in the drilling business after you've reached a certain size. We would never have grown fast without the help of the Midland"—the Group accounts and the directors' personal accounts are maintained at the Chesterfield branch.

"It's thanks to the Midland, for instance, that we can meet virtually any demands for exploring new coal fields or for safety probes in existing mines."

"Drilling rigs are expensive pieces of equipment that you can't afford to have idle for even two days. When our customers want parts, they want them right away," says John F. Ashley.

How Midland money helps

Ron Sykes, Secretary and Financial Director, explains how Midland Bank Group helps—with money, for example.

"The biggest single facility we have is to finance stock-holding. We hold something like £400,000-worth of parts in our Tower Drilling Company alone."

"Look what it's like with exports, for example. Tooling-up for overseas markets can be fast and furious—when it happens. It's like an explosion of drilling overnight, and that's the kind of reason why we have to hold such large stocks."

"Many of our contracts are with foreign governments. They're always big, so exports can be up to 40% of our business in a year. The Bank understands that; we have arrangements with Midland Bank International Division for a facility should we need it. The International Division has been very good for us. They make sure our foreign earnings come back at the right time, and they help us when we have to buy forward currency."

How Midland Bank Group can help

The people who work at the Midland are always ready to help you, and the companies that make up Midland Bank Group can help your company in many different ways. Their services include: facilities for term loans, leasing, hire-purchase, merchant banking, equity capital for growth companies, international insurance broking and advisory services, international and export finance, travel, factoring, investment management and trust services.

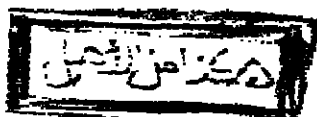
Also, for very large companies, Midland's Corporate Finance Division has a select team that can work directly with the company to make the best possible use of the wide range of Group services.

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Midland Bank Group

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, June 13. Dealings End, June 24. § Contango Day, June 27. Settlement Day, July 5
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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SUMMARY OF RESULTS

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Enjoy your motoring with a
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Bank of England happy with marketing £564m Government stake in BP

Financial Staff.
The main underwriters to the offer are Barings Brothers, Robert Fleming, Hambros, Hill, Samuel Kleinwort Benson, Messrs. Bro. Morgan, Grenfell, N.M. Rothschild, J. Henry Schroder, Wagg and S. G. Warburg.

Brokers are Mullens, J. & A. Scrimgeour, Cazenove, Hoare, Govett and Rowe & Pimms, Hurst-Brown.

The original Government holding dates back to 1914 and the Bank holding was acquired two years ago from Burnish Oil which at the time was near financial collapse. The Bank stake is currently the subject of litigation with the Bank board which is suing for the return of the shares.

The Bank purchased the 20 per cent Government stake for £179m, so once the stake is transferred to the Treasury the Government will have seen a profit of almost £400m on the deal.

A unique combination of the United Kingdom and American systems of issuing shares has been put together to launch the offer.

First advertisements will appear in the press today. The full prospectus should be available in main post offices and clearing banks by Friday. Applications will open at 10 am on Friday, June 24.

The register of shareholders filed with the United States Securities Exchange Commission yesterday was the culmination of nearly two years' work by Morgan Stanley, the American advisers, and Lord Carmichael, of Springwood, London stockbroker.

The six American managers, led by Morgan Stanley, First Boston, Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch, Solomon Brothers, and Pierce, Fenner & Smith, will be touring the country to secure commitments from underwriters to take up stock, one quarter of which is allocated to them.

But the Americans will not be able to obtain stock at less than the London price. When the United Kingdom offer is known after June 26, the Bank of England has retained the discretionary power to decide how much it will let go to the Americans.

This will depend on the prices that the American underwriters have said they will be prepared to pay. Although the amount of stock is expected to be around 25 per cent it could vary.

The United Kingdom prospectus states: "The amount of stock allocated to the North American offering is unlikely to exceed 25 per cent so long as applications to be accepted under this offer [that is the United Kingdom offer] at least cover the balance."

Mr Q. M. Morris, group finance coordinator of BP, who praised the way the Bank of England had handled the issue, said: "It is the first time the two markets have been put together in this way. The Bank has assured itself a London price, what it receives from America is cream. It means that the American managers will really have to work hard over the next two weeks."

"The Bank clearly hopes to get a better price out of the United States. The new system manages to take the strength of the two markets," he said.

An alternative way of offering the stock in America would have been to have had a separate issue there for a pre-



Sir David Steel (left), chairman of BP, and Mr. Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

set number of shares, which would clearly have had disadvantages over the scheme which has been implemented.

Mr Morris welcomed the idea of increasing the number of American investors in the company, which at the last count held around 18 million shares.

By next year 40 per cent of the United States will be in the United States. It is a good thing to balance the shareholders by increased American shareholdings.

Marking the issue with its first formal press conference, Bank of England spokesmen complimented themselves on "very nicely judged marketing," which had been taken up by a very wide range of institutions.

Bank directors are unwilling to be drawn on the amount of stock applied for by overseas funds. Neither will they give a view on the chances of launching the issue, although stamp duty alone will top £10m.

The Treasury will eventually pay the Bank's expenses and that payment will be subject to a Parliamentary vote.

Mr John Page, Chief Cashier of the decision to allot stock part-paid in Britain but fully-paid in North America, helps to keep the markets (in the stock) physically separate.

The size of the separate allocation of the issue to the North American market, estimated at not exceeding 25 per cent, was Mr Page said, decided after discussions with United States funds, discussions which suggested that the allocation was unlikely to exceed 25 per cent.

Financial Editor, page 23

Mr Healey urges banks to stop staff dodging phase 2

By Mervyn Westlake
Mr Healey yesterday gave a warning to bank managements in an attempt to prevent bank staffs exploiting the pay loophole presented by the end of the phase two wages policy on July 31.

Speaking to the annual luncheon of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Guildhall, Mr Healey said that the bank managements, who had expressed themselves in favour of incomes policy, should put their money where their mouth is "as they did not in 1974."

He said that he hoped the bank managements would support the TUC in making clear that they would be allowed to gain from seeking to dodge existing pay policy in the way intended by bank staffs. The

prime responsibility for pay must always lie with the employer who provided it.

Like some other groups of employees, the Confederation of Bank Staff Associations has decided to forgo a settlement in phase two in the hope of doing better under any new policy which takes its place this summer.

Mr Healey said the Government could not and would not dodge its responsibility as an employer in the public sector.

"You must be equally prepared to accept yours in the private sector," he told employers of the London Chamber.

The possibility that large numbers of workers are intending to use the expiry of phase two, and the present uncertainty about any phase three, as a means of getting higher pay settlements than would otherwise be permissible, has clearly begun to alarm the Government.

The bank staff confederation decided at the beginning of this week to exploit this route to a higher settlement, which entails simply delaying the lodging of a claim until after July 31. The move seems certain to have widespread repercussions in the financial world.

Mr Healey said that as long as Britain could hold fast to the lessons of recent years, prospects in the coming years were better, not worse, than those of many of our competitors.

Indeed, the next 25 years would be dominated by the opportunities and dangers, presented by our oil, besides paying off our debts, we must use the advantage it offered to invest in new sources of energy and regenerate our industry, the Chancellor said.

High Street sales last month still sluggish

By Caroline Atkinson
Business is still bad in the High Street, despite the beginning of the tourist season. Figures released yesterday by the Department of Trade showed that retail sales in May were little changed from the low levels recorded in March and April.

Although there is some relief that the trend of sales appears to be bottoming out after the sharp fall in the first quarter of the year, the extremely low level at which they have stabilised leaves little room for good cheer.

The volume of sales in the last three months was about 3 per cent below the average of the previous three months, and lower than for any quarter since 1972.

Most of the fall in trade this year has been in durable goods as families whose spending power has been hit by the tight curbs on incomes and still rising prices have put off buying non-essentials.

The May figures do not give a break-down of trade as they are still only provisional. There have recently been quite sizeable downward revisions to provisional figures.

However, that seems to have been caused by the unexpectedly sharp fall off in business earlier in the year. It is less likely that the flat trend in the figures will be revised substantially.

The figures confirm the picture of a depressed economy with little demand from consumers. The Government's economic strategy was intended to squeeze personal and government consumption to leave room for exports and investment.

RETAIL SALES
The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales and value of new instalment credit released by the Department of Industry:

	Sales by volume 1970=100	Percentage change latest 3 months on previous 3 months annual rate	New instalment credit £m
1976 Q1	107.3	+6.2	844
Q2	107.5	+1.1	878
Q3	109.9	+4.9	915
Q4	108.5	-1.5	972
1977 Q1	105.0	-12.3	1,020
1976 May	106.8	-2.9	292
June	107.3	+1.1	282
July	108.8	+2.6	291
Aug	108.9	+5.1	305
Sept	108.9	+4.9	319
Oct	108.1	+3.8	310
Nov	109.2	+1.5	332
Dec	108.3	-1.5	330
1977 Jan	106.7	-2.1	324
Feb	105.7	-6.6	342
March	103.1	-11.8	354
April	103.4	-14.0	355
May p	103.1p	-12.7	na

p provisional

Doubts at Paris talks on Japanese and German trade targets

From David Blake
Paris, June 14
There was a general air of disbelief today as Japanese and German officials tried to persuade their colleagues in the Economic Policy Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that their countries were fulfilling the pledges made at the recent London Summit.

But that sense of doubt does not seem to have translated itself into any really serious pressure for further reform by the two countries, although many of their partners in the 24-nation OECD clearly feel it would be desirable.

The Japanese came in for particularly close questioning this morning as they tried to argue that their growth target of 6.7 per cent for the year as a whole would be achieved, and that the Japanese trade surplus would evaporate.

Quite apart from doubts on whether the Japanese will grow that fast, there seems to be the feeling that what growth they will get is focused heavily on exports. These make it harder for other countries to get their trade accounts into balance.

Since one of the purposes of pushing Japan for faster growth is to help the rest of the world, the Japanese position is thought to be suspect.

This afternoon it was the turn of the Germans, who argued that they would achieve growth through the 5 per cent target to which they are pledged.

Once again, there seems to be a mood among other countries that the Germans could do more to expand. The problem which the meeting faces is that the gap between promise and performance for the Western industrial nations has already become quite marked in the 12 months since agreement was reached on a so-called "medium-term strategy."

That strategy called for 5 per cent average growth in the five years to 1980 to reduce unemployment. It also called for improving inflationary performance and a better payments balance.

Its broad outlines were endorsed yet again recently by a committee of senior economists under the chairmanship of Mr Paul McCracken, which said that the 5 per cent growth figure was achievable.

Yet with little more than two and a half years to go to the start of 1980 the actual performance of the West is well below this. Growth is slower, and is expected to get slower still during 1978.

The balance of payments deficit is expected to be around \$30,000m (about £17,240m), compared to \$20,000m last year, although some pundits feel that the success of pushing Japan for faster growth is to help the rest of the world, the Japanese position is thought to be suspect.

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Chrysler made \$2.5m 'unusual payments'

It, June 14.—Chrysler, the big American carmaker, has revealed that its foreign subsidiaries made "unusual payments" to government officials and union representatives 71 to 1976.

The inquiry uncovered a wide range of unauthorized practices. They included the existence of "off-book" funds for foreign subsidiaries, payments to meet "abusive" tax demands overseas, "facilitating" payments to minor foreign government officials, and payments to overseas union representatives and employees.

A spokesman for Chrysler UK said yesterday the company had nothing to add to the corporation's report to the SEC—Reuters.

Edward Townsend writes: The report, compiled by British Leyland and the National Enterprise Board, on recent allegations that the company was operating "slush funds" in its dealings in overseas markets, is being studied by Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry.

After a detailed examination of British Leyland's transactions covering a period of years, company directors submitted their findings to the National Enterprise Board whose chairman, Lord Ryder, this week sent the report to Mr Varley.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS
1976 1975
£'000 £'000

Assets employed — 76,189 63,267
Mover — 187,234 154,092
Sup surplus before taxation — 13,176 12,247
Dividends per share, including tax credit and conditional final — 6.716p 6.106p
Dividends per share before extraordinary items — 22.3p 21.2p

There was a marked increase in turnover during the year. The expansion in business reported at the half-year continued, with the result that sales for 1976 were approximately 35% higher than the corresponding figure for 1975. Margins, however, continued to weaken, reflecting, in part, the inability to pass on in full the Group's higher operating costs.

Sales by overseas subsidiaries, together with exports and overseas trading of UK companies increased from £123,133,000 to £155,678,000.

3% of the 1976 surplus arose from exports and overseas earnings.

Morgan cut alters prime rate pattern

By Our Economic Staff.
No other large United States banks have yet followed Morgan Guaranty's unexpected 4 point cut in its prime rate on Monday, to 6 1/2 per cent, and the first reaction from the industry suggests that a spike prime rate will prevail for a while.

The 6 1/2 per cent rate which the other main banks are still holding has only been in force since the end of last month.

There has been strong government criticism of the recent rise in domestic rates in view of the continued slack demand for loans in the economy.

Morgan Guaranty has denied that this influenced its decision, which was based on money market conditions and weak demand for funds from business.

Special factors widen Budget gap
There has been a substantial jump in the Government's Budget deficit during the first two months of the new financial year.

But the increase seems exclusively the result of special factors, and there is a strong possibility that as the year progresses the gap between government spending and its revenue from taxes and duties will prove to be below Treasury forecasts.

If such an outcome appeared likely by the autumn, the Chancellor would have some scope for re-fining the economy, as is now widely expected.

At the moment the state of the Government's financial accounts casts little light on this possible outcome.

Central government borrowing requirements increased to £1,264m in May, compared with £780m in the same month of the previous year.

The accumulated deficit so far in 1977-78 is £1,849m, some £308m more than in the same months of 1976-77.

Shipping trade pledge by Soviet minister

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent.
Russia wants cooperation, after confrontation with western shipping, Mr Timofei Gushenko, Soviet Minister for Merchant Marines said yesterday. But it must be cooperation based on the reality of the situation, he said in London after meeting British ministers and ship owners.

In the trade between Europe and East Africa, where Russia wants 36 sailings a year and has been offered six by western lines, reality must lie somewhere between the two positions, Mr Gushenko said.

Asked on what criteria Russia asked for 30 per cent of the trade in which, until recently, she was not represented, Mr Gushenko said it was not a matter of numbers of sailings, but the Russian line in the trade, and there must be some reason for

it. Asked what proportion of the trade was Russian cargo, he said he did not know, but the figures were available from another ministry.

Soviet trade was growing at a rate of 12 to 15 per cent a year and Soviet shipping was expanding by 22 per cent between 1975 and 1980, Mr Gushenko said.

Difficulties were being caused by the economic crisis in the capitalist west where foreign trade between western countries fell by 18 per cent in 1975 while the world fleet grew by 12 per cent.

The United Nations appreciated the difficulties and would try to cooperate while developing her own fleet for three reasons: to meet the requirements of Russian expansion in which contracts specified carriage in Russian ships; and in the cross trades.

How the markets moved
The Times index: 183.59 +2.16
The FT index: 455.4 +7.3

Rises
Asx News 10p to 182p
Blundell perm 8p to 54p
Brit Borneo 8p to 164p
Bulmer HF 11p to 173p
Dunlop 4p to 100p
Hammerston A 17p to 450p
Hawker Sid 30p to 652p
Hewlett 9p to 110p
Int Pac Ind 12p to 39p
Int Pac Ind 15p to 510p

Falls
Falkley Hambro 12p to 115p
BP 24p to 86p
Hutchison Int 5p to 60p
Libanon 7p to 243p
Lucas Ind 13p to 302p
MK Refrig 8p to 124p
Regional 8p to 55p
Richardson W 9p to 56p
Rowellson Com 9p to 51p
Royal 8p to 342p
Spencer, G 5p to 42p
Sulzer 15p to 42p
Van 12p to 313p
Whescoe 7p to 88p

THE POUND
Australia \$ 1.61
Austria Sch 30.50
Belgium Fr 64.25
Canada \$ 1.34
Denmark Kr 10.70
Finland Fmk 7.28
France Fr 6.74
Germany Dm 4.22
Greece Dr 64.00
Hong Kong \$ 8.40
Italy L 155.00
Japan Yn 493.00
Netherlands Gld 4.42
Norway Kr 9.36
Portugal Esc 68.25
S Africa Rd 2.02
Spain Pes 121.50
Sweden Kr 7.89
Switzerland Fr 4.46
US \$ 1.76
Yugoslavia Dnr 32.50

Bank buys/sells
Bank 1.61
Bank 30.50
Bank 64.25
Bank 1.34
Bank 10.70
Bank 7.28
Bank 6.74
Bank 4.22
Bank 64.00
Bank 8.40
Bank 155.00
Bank 493.00
Bank 4.42
Bank 9.36
Bank 68.25
Bank 2.02
Bank 121.50
Bank 7.89
Bank 4.46
Bank 1.76
Bank 32.50

Gold fell 50.625 to 5137.625.
SDR-£ was 1.16285 on Tuesday, while SDR-£ was 0.676351.
Commodities: Reuter's index was at 1538.2 (previous 1606.01).
Sterling fell one point to \$1.792.
The effective exchange rate index was at 61.5.

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LONDON PARIS GLASGOW

Setback to hope of UK share in £160m Nigerian shipbuilding deal

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

British hopes of landing at least part of a big Nigerian shipping order package worth more than £160m received a setback yesterday.

It appears that the Nigerian National Shipping Line (NNSL) has allocated the order for 19 general cargo liners to South Korean and Yugoslavian shipbuilding companies.

Swan Hunter and the star-owned Sunderland shipbuilders had formed a consortium to tender for the package, and top officials of British Shipbuilders led talks with the Nigerians in both London and Lagos.

In recent weeks those close to the negotiations were optimistic that although it was unlikely that the United Kingdom yard's would secure all the orders, some at least would be placed in Britain.

But reports from Tokyo yesterday, quoting *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, the usually reliable Japanese financial daily news-paper, said that contracts for the ships had gone to South Korea and Yugoslavia. Three of Japan's largest shipbuilding groups, IHI, Mitsubishi and Hitachi, had all bid.

Although neither Mitsubishi nor Hitachi confirmed the reports, Japanese shipping sources in London indicated last night that the reports appeared to be correct. A Japanese delegation has recently been in Lagos in connection with the deal.

A spokesman for NNSL in London was unable to confirm the reports, but said that British Shipbuilders said that it had received no communication from Lagos about the results of its bid. "We are still waiting to hear formally from Nigeria on what NNSL has decided", said a spokesman.

British hopes had been raised last month when the Nigerians summoned a team from the United Kingdom consortium at short notice for further talks on the British package. The mission was led by Mr Michael Casey, chief executive of British Shipbuilders.

Although South Korea had apparently quoted lower prices than any of the other bidders for the package, the British team considered that its proposals for the training of Nigerian personnel to man the ships and maintain them would be an important factor.

Turnover of the top 20 ports improved from £279m to £347m; operating surplus from £27m to £62m; and net surplus after interest from £4.3m to £38.2m, giving a return on capital employed of 10.4 per cent in 1976 compared with 5.1 per cent in 1975.

London stayed firmly top of the ports league with 17 million tonnes of sea-oil traffic, followed by Liverpool with 11 million, Tees and Hartlepool with 10 million, Immingham with nine million, Manchester and Clyde with eight million and Felixstowe, Hull, Dover and Forth all with around four million.

Including oil, London was still top with 44 million tonnes followed by Milford Haven with 43 million, Tees and Hartlepool with 32 million, and Southampton with 27 million.

Capital investment in the ports has fallen to about half the mid-60s level, the report says, reflecting the broad adequacy of Britain's port facilities to the needs of the economy, and the effect of the recession.

In a farewell message after six years as chairman—Mr John Page of the Mersey Dock Company takes over today—Mr Chappell urged major changes in the dock labour scheme to abolish special terms for registered dockers. He suggested a single scheme covering all port workers.

He also urged single responsibility for the ports industry by the Department of Transport instead of the situation in which manpower was the separate responsibility of the Department of Employment.

But he claimed significant improvements in the performance of the industry since 1970 from a loss of £1m to a surplus of £38m; dockers' force down from 53,000 to 38,000; and days lost from strikes down from 720,000 to 42,000 last year.

Annual Report and Accounts for 1976 National Ports Council, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DZ, price 75p.

Mr Chappell said that the industry had failed to demonstrate to the public and the unions that the natural pressure on prices from competition was downwards while competitive bargaining forced them up.

"The quid pro quo of price control for income control is illogical", Lord Trenchard said. If the market place and competition were to be allowed to create new wealth for the country, "price control must go", he said.

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Turnover, traffic and profits up sharply at Britain's top ports

By Michael Bailey

Traffic and profitability were sharply up last year in Britain's ports, according to the National Ports Council in its latest annual report.

As the economy picked up, traffic rose by 7 per cent, or 11 per cent excluding fuel, and the improvement is continuing this year, Mr Philip Chappell, the chairman, said at a London press conference yesterday.

In the first four months exports rose 10 per cent over the same period last year and imports by 5 per cent, reflecting increased activity between Britain and Europe, better road connections with the ports, and the effects of North Sea oil.

Turnover of the top 20 ports improved from £279m to £347m; operating surplus from £27m to £62m; and net surplus after interest from £4.3m to £38.2m, giving a return on capital employed of 10.4 per cent in 1976 compared with 5.1 per cent in 1975.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Computer procurement policy

From Mr A. J. Robertson

Sir, I would like to support Mr Vincent Gargaro's remarks regarding the Government's procurement preference to

wards. ICL, as reported by Kenneth Owen on May 31.

Most of the major American computer manufacturers have a considerable investment in the United Kingdom, both in manpower and resources. We also make a significant contribution to the economy with exports and the United Kingdom benefits from our computer expertise. This is not only in manufacturing (R & D costs are very high and it is

extremely costly to develop new computers), but also in the development of software, which is increasingly important with today's computer systems.

Take my own company, NCR, as an example. We have been in the United Kingdom for over 30 years and employ almost 5,000 people. We have had a manufacturing plant in the United Kingdom since 1946. Since then NCR has had a continuous record of outstanding export performance. Computers and terminals manufactured in Dundee, using United Kingdom-manufactured components wherever possible, are exported to over 100 coun-

tries throughout the world—we have won the Queen Award for Export Achievement three times. In 1975 our export sales were £28,500,000.

And yet we, and our colleagues in the other American computer manufacturers based in the United Kingdom, are not allowed to bid for a substantial part of the business in an open and competitive manner.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. ROBERTSON,
Director, Finance and Administration

NCR Limited,
206 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 6LY.

On the basis that there were sterling credits of £30 billion outstanding in 1976 I estimate the loss of purchasing power at around £4 billion at today's exchange rates. This is caused by the 1976 devaluation. The Treasury appears, at last, to have recognised this type of problem by terminating ECU export credits designated sterling. But many export companies are still provided credits privately with the help of their banking advisers. These companies have much to gain if sterling exchange rates are now allowed to recover to a moderately slow rate of improvement.

In my investment work home and overseas I have noticed that advisers have taken note of the improved methods of Treasury expenditure control exemplified by "cash limits", the better industrial relations outlook, the union shop stewards' spending more time on improving conditions at the workplace and less time on wages bargaining, and the better expenditure relationship between manufacturing and public service industries. The case for higher sterling is much stronger than many realise. It would bring a welcome relief to inflation.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. HORSNAIL,
Economic adviser,
Burge and Co. stockbrokers,
Dormer House,
Clapham,
Surrey.
June 3.

Another point here is that the Bank of England is believed, at present, to be regulating sterling against the dollar only. Since the dollar is also under modest attack in international money markets, it would seem United Kingdom inflation, if the Bank also took account of, say, exchange rate movements of other important currencies including the Dutch guilder (for food imports), the deutschemark (for engineering goods), and the Japanese yen (for consumer products trade).

3. Lady Robson makes the point that the inflationary impact of devaluation should be measured. One item, which is often overlooked, is the exchange loss on outstanding sterling export credits as devaluation proceeds.

to the firm offering the best product or value (thus making for the benefit of all concerned)—the Government, employers, managers, a sound commercial judgement, or whether he passes it to the firm offering the best bribe to him personally?

If top employees are prepared to take a blind leap in the latter process down the line, or are engaged in similar

rackets themselves, how can such businesses pretend to be efficient and soundly controlled? Perhaps such people bring upon themselves ever control: a government can shake them with.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. D. BIGGS,
Farnley, Elgin Road,
Worthing, Sussex.
June 9.

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If top employees are prepared to take a blind leap in the latter process down the line, or are engaged in similar

rackets themselves, how can such businesses pretend to be efficient and soundly controlled? Perhaps such people bring upon themselves ever control: a government can shake them with.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. D. BIGGS,
Farnley, Elgin Road,
Worthing, Sussex.
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Toolmakers seek Neddy help over Leyland orders

By Edward Townsend

Frustrated British machine tool manufacturers are seeking the assistance of the industry's Little Neddy in a further bid to win a firm commitment from Leyland Cars on its future multi-million-pound re-equipment programme.

They have told National Economic Development Office officials they must have full details of the company's investment plans to assist forward production planning and avoid a situation in which Leyland would be forced to purchase a large proportion of foreign machine tools.

Leaders of the industry, while expressing some disquiet about the lack of inter-industry consultation, which they feel should have resulted from the Government's industrial strategy sector working party exercise, believe that, through NEDO channels, they should be able to bring home their concerns to the Department of Industry and the National

Enterprise Board, British Leyland's major shareholder.

Apart from some big export orders which are beginning to filter through to British machine tool factories, there is also the hope of a major boost to the industry's overseas business as a result of what will be the world's largest international machine tool exhibition in Hannover in September.

Seventy-six British companies are taking part in the exhibition, organized by the European Committee for Cooperation of the Machine Tool Industries (CECMTI), and new business will help the industry to achieve its target of exporting 60 per cent of output by 1980 against the present figure of under half.

Mr Bill Vaughan, president of the Machine Tool Trades Association, said yesterday there was real concern that unless Leyland Cars soon began placing major orders it would be faced with the dilemma of buying abroad.

Stable food prices would only be achieved when there was a "good economic performance and a strong pound".

"Competition is still the housewife's best friend, perhaps her only friend", Lord Trenchard said. Very few companies "made a killing" before price controls were introduced because of the vigour of competition in the market place.

Average margins were controlled by competition to a level which was "absolutely essential for reinvestment and future supplies."

Industry had failed to demonstrate to the public and the unions that the natural pressure on prices from competition was downwards while competitive bargaining forced them up.

"The quid pro quo of price control for income control is illogical", Lord Trenchard said. If the market place and competition were to be allowed to create new wealth for the country, "price control must go", he said.

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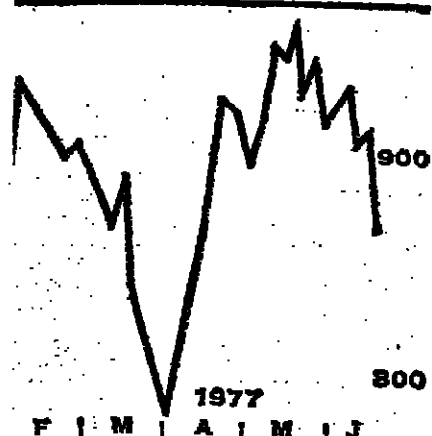
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

BP in the light of day

As the future holds, yesterday was a day which will be chalked up in the history of the British securities industry. Not only did BP offer of £564m of BP stock massive standards, but the underwriting was out with speed and efficiency.

HARES pence



Finally emerged into the light of day looks imaginatively structured and just cheaply enough to overcome the writing quibbles. Indeed, indications were that several institutions ready looking for more than their allocation.

will be able to top up their BP at an effective price of around 10p in the absence of stamp duty and the long gap between the two issues. The party-paid issue more than making the loss of the 10.6p interim discount, then, is a comfortable tenth the BP price prevailing before light in front of the sale which is in itself the success of the underwriters writing the BP price in the past few

chief interest in BP until the final December will be in the partly-paid

party myths under attack

Investor knows that property is aflationary hedge, or does he? Strip-unthinking assumptions out of that stockbrokers Greenwell rightly at in an analysis today that property in inflation hedge in a growth area. British office market has tended to own area for rents because of restrictions on supply of space rather massive level of unsold stock in space. And with that in mind, it seems moves towards the abolition of controls as a long-term problem industry.

immediately the broker takes a new the demand-supply equation in the ce market. Clearly there is a shortage space. But that does not necessitate upward pressure on all rents of the weight of office overhead shing space users from older buildings assuming a relatively constant net demand for space Greenwell sees a rrp two-tier market developing with modern offices commanding rising rents but the mass of older buildings coming largely ex-growth.

ry factor in increasing office over-sts over the next few years is the 2 of lease reversions around the end decade. Progressively shorter rent periods on new buildings since the has resulted in a mass of reviews 1976 and the early 1980s. On the 3 the prospect of reviews bringing ily low rents up to current levels is make occupiers look more closely of requirements, moves supporting ll's two-tier market thesis.

Other hand, even without much rth beyond current levels, the rom historical to current rents on

shares which have all the trading attractions of an ordinary option. With the BP price recovering well in late dealings yesterday the premium on the 300p partly-paid shares could run out to 20p or more when dealings start in July.

However, SEC regulations being what they are, the American end of the operation cannot be tied up until allocation day in a couple of weeks time. What seems important at this stage, however, is that the 25 per cent of the offer reserved for the United States appears to be a flexible figure. And the amount that goes to the States is going to determine just how much the Government pulls in this month and how much in December.

Assuming a full 25 per cent went across the Atlantic, the Government "take" would be £292m in June and £272m in December. Any less than 25 per cent to the States would shift the "take" in favour of December, something that would almost certainly suit a government anxious to hold as much as possible in reserve against the risk of a difficult autumn.

Johnson Matthey

Scope in the dividend

With a dividend covered more than five times Johnson Matthey must be a prime candidate to lift its payment substantially when dividend controls come off. So a yield of 4.29 per cent with the shares at 437p is not the drawback that it seems.

Moreover, the case for re-rating the shares is also supported by a prospective p/e ratio of around 6 assuming conservative outside estimates of earnings per share this year of 75p to be correct.

For last year, with over capacity in the reforming catalyst industry in the United States, Johnson Matthey faced tough competition and thus saw margins squeezed, on its refining and chemical side.

And the position was not helped either by the United States Ford strike and vacillation over the implementation of revised legal emission standards. However, this remains a major future growth prospect, and in any case last year the Silver Jubilee helped to offset the difficult conditions in the catalyst market, the outcome being a 40 per cent increase in group profits to £21m.

sizeable tranches of companies' portfolios

will have a dramatic impact on profitability. And a rough estimate by the broker of reversionary potential in 10 companies covered in its review suggests that 1975-76 rental income of £116m will increase by £45m by 1980, annual compound growth of 12 per cent, much of which will flow straight through to attributable earnings.



Mr. Sydney Mason, chairman of Hammerson Property & Investment Trust.

On a two-year view Greenwell believes this reversionary strength will be recognized by the market and on that basis it picks Hammerson, Land Securities, Hasleware, Great Portland, Slough Estates, MEPC, Brixton Estate, and Stock Conversion.

On a longer, five-to-six-year view, however, Greenwell would switch away from groups with Central London offices as the flow of older offices on to the market undermines rent growth. My view on that sort of time-scale, though, is that investors are likely to have little left to choose from in a sector that looks increasingly like institutional bid fodder.

Hugh Clayton describes the workings of the Community's much criticized Common Agricultural Policy

Controversy about the place of the United Kingdom in the EEC is growing intense almost exactly two years after the referendum on membership. Strains are being felt in all areas of national policy which are influenced by Brussels, from energy to fish.

The most heated arguments surround the Common Agricultural Policy, where the mechanics of the common market work in their purest form and where British policy is led by a minister who calls himself "an unrepentant anti-Marketeer".

Farm policy in the EEC is dangerously hard to understand and its complexity encourages propagandists to arouse consumer suspicion of farmers. It is like some antiquated intuitive philosophical system: the principle would work if it were not for the fact that it has to be modified so much to fit imperfect reality that the central purpose is lost in a jumble of apparently unrelated and arbitrary rules.

The policy is one of those irritating things that often seem to be explained after they have been explained that they were in the first place. The shopper whose food bill depends on it feels like a bewildered spectator at an obscure ritual.

The "green pound" is bandied about in argument, but nobody stops to explain what it is. Shoppers are led to believe that the Common Agricultural Policy is used by Brussels to keep uneconomic family farms in business on the Continent with the proceeds of food price rises in Britain.

The wider aim of the policy and its broader effects are forgotten. The British food trades, which were so keen on EEC membership in the 1975 campaign, have done little since to make it more palatable.

Harmonization of rules for food distribution, which is meant to lead to a truly common market, is a long, disjointed and obscure process. The aim behind it is lost in a jumble of single proposals are picked out for decision when they offend particular commercial interests.

That makes measures like improvement of hygiene in poultry slaughterhouses or the adoption of metric grades for eggs look like madcap schemes invented in Brussels for no coherent reason. As Lewis Carroll put it: "He only does it to annoy because he knows it reasons."

Something that really is invented by the Community and which unaccountably escapes most of the criticism is the Intervention Board for Agricultural Products. Each country has one, to act as internal book-keeper for the policy and to arrange storage and sale of surpluses. In Britain the job is done by a department of 500 civil servants, which is seldom mentioned in angry tabulations of the cost to the country of EEC membership.

In 1975 the British board paid £170m in refunds on imports of food from the rest of the Community to bring their prices down to British levels. In December, 1974, it paid compensation of £121 on 51 tonnes of cauliflower withdrawn from the market and in 1975 supervised the withdrawal of more than 10,000 tonnes of mackerel. What, then, is the green

BRITAIN AND THE EEC									
	All EEC	UK	France	West Germany	Italy	Irish Republic	Denmark	Netherlands	Spain, Greece, Portugal
Land used in farming (%)	61	77	60	54	58	69	69	55	60
Proportion of labour force in farming (%)	9	2	12	7	17	24	10	5	30
Self-sufficiency (%) in—									
grain	91	67	173	80	63	67	95	35	not available
fish	57	50	62	20	36	104	271	40	na
oil and fats	40	18	48	39	50	80	111	35	na
Shares in output of—									
milk (%)	100	16	30	21	10	4	5	14	8
meat (%)	100	15	25	23	15	3	6	14	13
grain (%)	100	15	59	20	15	1	7	3	17
timber (%)	100	4	42	30	16	1	2	5	30

EEC farm prices: confusion heaped upon confusion

TREATY OF ROME

Article 38. "The functioning and development of the Common Market in respect of agricultural products shall be accompanied by the establishment of a common agricultural policy."

Article 39. Aims of the policy: to increase productivity through optimum utilization of the factors of production, particularly labour; to ensure thereby a fair standard of living for the agricultural population; particularly by the increasing of the individual earnings of persons engaged in agriculture; to stabilize markets; to guarantee regular supplies; to ensure reasonable consumer prices.

● Agricultural products include meat, fish, pectin, lard, trees, vegetables, fruit, nuts, margarine, sugar, honey, flax, tobacco and "true hemp (cannabis sativa), raw or processed but not spun; tow and waste of true hemp including pulled or garnetted rags or ropes".

pond? To judge from some British statements it is the central nerve of the Common Agricultural Policy. In fact, it is only one of several branches, but it is widely considered in the Community to be monstrous enough to destroy the body.

In the beginning there were no green currencies in the EEC. There were common prices as farm production was incorporated sector by sector into a supra-national framework. That process is now so far advanced that there are few products outside it. The main ones are potatoes and sheep.

However, in the decade during which support prices for farm products and fish are expressed in units of account, the phantom Brussels currency which is constant throughout the EEC.

Thus farmers are told early each year how much extra the Council of Ministers decides that they should receive. That decision tends to differ from the advice of the European Commission, which in turn falls short of what farmers claim.

The increase for each product is expressed in units of account. The units are then turned into national currencies at "green" rates of exchange. The units are decided by the Community as a whole and the green rates by national governments.

The operation of the common market in farm products is therefore at the mercy of national monetary decisions. The key to what a farmer receives therefore lies in a mixture of central common decisions and individual national ones derived from it. The two sets seldom march.

If a national currency moves on international exchange markets after the Community has set its annual prices in units of account its relationship with the unit is not automatically adjusted in proportion. That means that the value to a farmer in one country of a common price can change relative to the value elsewhere.

In Britain, for example, the Government refused to change

that returns to farmers there are higher than they would otherwise be.

That means in turn that British and West German farm and food prices have been propelled in opposite directions. Yet one of the cardinal principles of the Common Agricultural Policy is that there should be no barriers to internal trade.

If West German prices are high while British ones are low, West German consumers, say, would clearly be handicapped in selling butter in Britain. The rules say that they must not be so handicapped.

The obstacle is removed by the insertion of a monetary compensatory amount in the transaction. That amount is financed by the whole Community and is the source of the subsidy of £1m a day which Britain receives against its food prices.

Those amounts, incidentally, are not to be confused, as they sometimes are in the House of Commons, with accessionary compensatory amounts. The latter iron out the difference in prices caused by the slow rise to full Community levels of farm prices in new member states. In the case of Britain they will end by next year when those levels are reached here.

It is wrong to think that monetary compensatory amounts will cease at the same time. They will remain as long as national money decisions distort the common market in farm prices. The two species of amount do not depend upon each other, even though their similar names may suggest that they do.

The so called subsidy which Britain receives is the cost to the Community of making up

the difference between the fixed green rate of the pound and the actual floating rate. The European Commission prefers to call it the cost to the Community of shielding Britain from the impact on food prices of the fall in sterling.

But there is more to it than high internal prices, since every increase in support to Community farmers entails a rise in the barriers which ensure that competing foods from outside do not undercut the internal product.

Critics of the Common Agricultural Policy reply to the Commission's claim about a shield by saying that Community prices, and therefore barriers, are unjustifiably high and that the operation of the green pound brings them down to where they should be.

The jargon of the policy is at its most terrifying in the realm of prices. The Commission offers the following definitions in one of its guides to the policy: "Target price—price which ought to be paid to the producer under the common market organization... guide price is similar but concerns beef, veal and wine; norm price—same as the above in the case of tobacco".

It continues: "Threshold price—a price calculated so that the imported product, including transport costs, can be sold at the target price. The difference between the world price and the threshold price is covered by a levy... reference price—the price determined by reference to prices paid to producers in the Community and comparable, to some extent, to the sluice-gate price..."

There is also the notorious intervention price, at which official agencies in all member states are obliged to accept certain commodities of suitable quality for storage. It is the point at which the market price is considered to fall so low that produce needs to be removed from the market to encourage a price rise backed by reduced supply and assuming unchanged demand.

That is the theory. In practice, farmers are encouraged by high support prices and rigid protection against competition from non-members of the EEC to produce more than internal shoppers want, at prices so high that nobody outside wants to pay them.

Fine Art Developments Limited



F. R. Kerry, Chairman

RECORD SALES AND PROFITS

"... we have budgeted for sustained progress... sales trends in the current year are encouraging"

Year ended 31st March	1977	% increase
Sales	£33,384,000	25.0
Profit before tax	£3,618,000	31.2
Disposable profit	£1,733,000	57.0
Earnings per share	4.708p	45.7
Dividends	A maximum permissible final dividend of 0.6512p is recommended.	
Rights issue	£1,850,000 cash to be raised by issue of 1 share for every 4 shares held, at 21p per share.	
Exports	Increased by 85.6% to £1,161,000.	

Fine Art Developments Limited

The 1977 Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary at Fine Art House, Queen Street, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

Business Diary: CoSIRA's Wilkinson • Come in, No 3

Wilkinson, the new of the Council for Industries in Rural areas, has experience of business large and small.

codirector of a small ilders in Birmingham, the elections of May was Labour leader of am City Corporation, is a budget of £300m

son, who is 39, relieves rfield, chairman of parent body, the tent Commission, who the council's acting since the retirement of the late Sir Paul

w man comes in at a n CoSIRA is being ed by its masters at rument of the Environ- take a more active the support of estab- ill industries and the ement of new ones— by loans for buildings imment or managerial

ouncil's responsibilities land and Wales have e assumed by the e development cor- of those countries. IRA is being given ey—it will have about year.

yesterday the NEC board announced that its chairman, Sir Robert Booth, aged 61, had been succeeded from Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce (Joint owners with the city council) to act as chief executive until a replacement can be found. He is due to retire as director of the chamber in November, 1978.

The last NEC incumbent, 48-year-old Gordon Brace, a former Wansley Manx Trianon executive, left on March 31 after only nine months in the job.

Since then the board has been using head-hunters to find a replacement. So exacting is the brief, however, that not only have they failed to come up with a suitable candidate, but yesterday Sir Robert admitted that it could take another six months or even a year to find the right person.

So what is the problem? The centre, Sir Robert says, has no equal in the United Kingdom and therefore men with suitable experience are few.

"We are looking at allied businesses and may even have to go overseas. We need a chief executive who is skilled in technical matters, marketing, industrial relations, catering, the movement and control of large crowds—the list is endless."



"We've won first prize a holiday for two in Uganda."

Enter the "Wal", a word coined by Philip Willis in his swansong as chairman of the family firm of commodity traders George Willis & Sons (Holdings).

"A Wal", Willis says, "is a law, edict or what-have-you, that produces precisely the reverse effect of that intended."

Prominent among Wals is the Equal Pay Act, which, he says, "could accurately be called 'Equal Unemployment Laws'".

The Employment Protection Act, he continues, "makes it so difficult to reduce staff that employers think very hard before increasing it: it is undoubtedly helping to keep up employment figures".

facet of Edwardes' keenness on improving productivity? Well no, he says. The initiative came from the unions. 1906, eh?

The ripples of the Loughor takeover of the Dunford & Elliott group are fanning out through the privately-owned steel industry.

Peter Edwards, one of two directors who resigned in the wake of the takeover, was also chairman of Dunford Hadfield, the principal steelmaking operation within the Dunford group, and from the second half of his two years as president of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association.

A requirement of the post is that the president should be an active steelman and therefore Edwards was obliged to resign the presidency from the beginning of this month. The organization's executive committee yesterday plugged the gap, appointing Dr Donald Hardwick as president and John Paterson as president-elect.

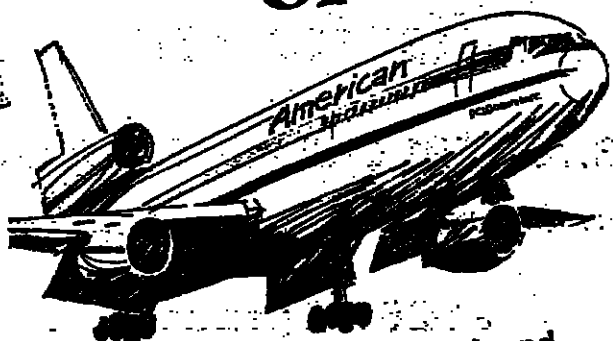
Hardwick is chairman of the steelmaking activities of Johnstons Firth Brown and responsible for some 14 companies, while Paterson, a Scot, is chairman and chief executive of the steel division of the Dupont Group and group deputy managing director.

The two men will be helping to wrestle with the European Commission over the steel plans of Industry Commissioner Viscount Davignon.

A visitor being shown into one of the great ministries of state asked if he should leave his coat in an outer office. "It'll be all right, boys," he was told. "We only steal millions here."

The Heath report

The insurance world of C.E. Heath.



Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
C. E. Heath has placed in London and property world-wide markets the liability and property insurance cover of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey including the World Trade Centre complex.

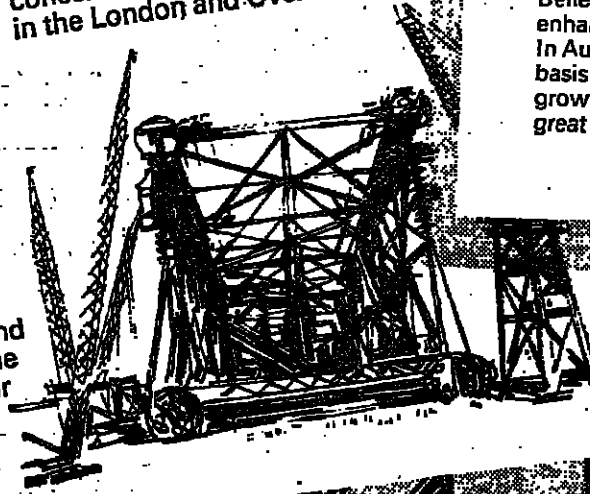


The Thistle A Project
World's largest off-shore platform - the Thistle A project. We were chosen by the contractors, Laing Offshore, to insure the site; the dock gates; certain equipment used in the construction of the platform including the specially adapted cranes and their transportation and erection; plus the overall liability for Laing Offshore in their capacity as contractors.

American Airlines
The London Market placement for American Airlines Inc. is arranged by C. E. Heath for Alexander and Alexander N.Y.



Cartier
Cartier are one of the leading International Jewellers with branches in the major cities of the world. A large part of their insurance requirements and those of other major jewellery concerns are handled by C. E. Heath in the London and Overseas markets.



Cuthbert Heath House

The Group's new headquarters building was officially opened by the Chairman of Lloyd's, Sir Havelock Hudson, on 17th September 1976.

Sir Havelock Hudson remarked that in his book on Lloyd's, Eric Gibb wrote "There are today few Lloyd's Underwriters and no Lloyd's Brokers whose business has not been revolutionised by what Cuthbert Heath did; and to his imagination and foresight even the insurance companies owe much of their present prosperity."

Sir Havelock Hudson went on to comment "I have, during my period of office, tried to get across to the public, to politicians and to government officials, the enormous and highly successful efforts of Lloyd's Brokers in travelling the length and breadth of the globe to bring back business to the London Insurance Market."

Lloyd's Brokers contribution to the U.K. economy cannot be over-emphasised and no small part of that contribution comes from C. E. Heath & Co., a great Lloyd's firm."



Another outstanding year Group profits up 80%

Highlights from the year to 31st March 1977 shown in the Report and Accounts and the Statement by Frank Holland, Chairman of C. E. Heath & Co. Limited

The Year's Results

The excellent progress made in recent years has been maintained. The operating profit at £11,454,000 shows an increase of almost 80% over the previous year and the profit available for appropriation at £5.76m is up by 90%. In this context it is interesting to note that the group was recently included in the Financial Times List of major quoted companies (market capitalisation above £10m) as the second best performing company in terms of growth in market capitalisation for 1976.

A final dividend of 14.0p gross - the maximum permissible - is recommended and in addition the Board recommend a capitalisation issue of two new shares for every one held. This issue will help to correct the balance between our general reserve and the capital of the company and should also improve the marketability of our shares.

Insurance broking

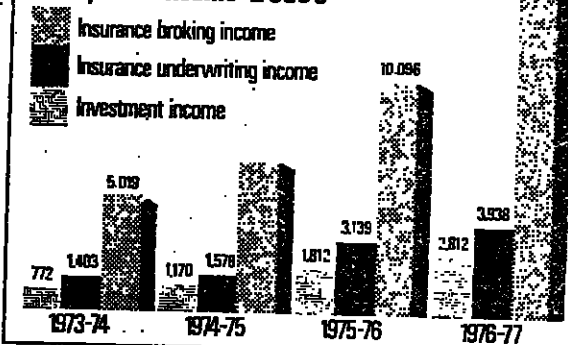
The continued progress of our insurance broking operations is most heartening. Every operating division has made a significant advance in spite of market difficulties. Notwithstanding the obvious problems associated with devaluation of sterling, especially as it affects Lloyd's capacity, our experience in placing covers throughout the international insurance and re-insurance markets in the last year has, if anything, added to the total capacity available.

The Group now handles insurance premiums amounting to £310 million through its broking operations.

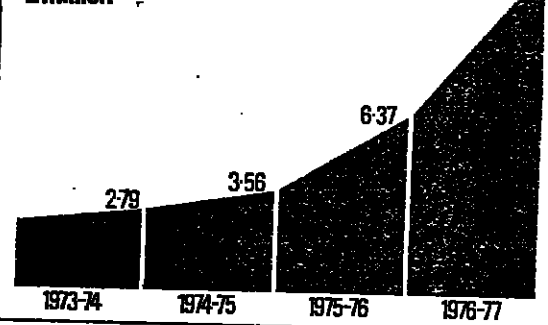
Underwriting

The Lloyd's Underwriting operations for the 1974 Account resulted in a substantial loss for our Non-Marine Syndicate and there is no profit commission contribution from this source. Our Agencies company is continuing to develop with the introduction of the Pine Top Insurance Company, and the increased volume being written by the Bellefonte Insurance Company has enhanced the fee income of the company. In Australia, the revision of our operating basis has taken place and the continued growth of these operations reflects the very great contribution of our staff there.

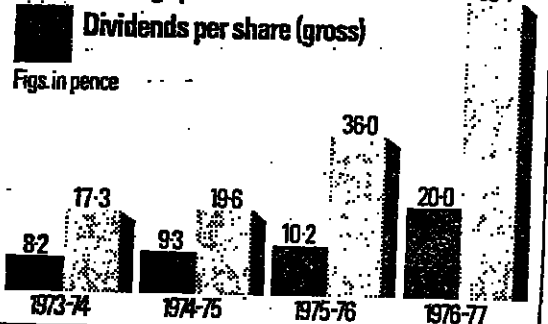
Analysis of income £000's



Operating profits £million



Earnings per share



Future prospects

It is unrealistic to expect the rate of growth achieved in the last few years to continue, especially if the pound achieves greater stability against other currencies. However, in the past year we have obtained a significant amount of new business and I see no reason why we should not continue to build on our firm foundations.

Satisfying the insurance requirements of our major corporate clients in the past year has been a challenge to our marketing skills. Our success gives me confidence that we shall continue to be recognised as having special strength in this area of vital importance to industry.

Although the 1975 Lloyd's Underwriting Account will almost certainly produce a small loss, a return to profitability should follow shortly. I am also hopeful that our Agencies company will produce a healthy contribution to our results.

Overseas we are looking for continued growth particularly from both our Australian operations - Broking and Underwriting.

Frank Holland

Copies of the full Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary,
C. E. Heath & Co. Ltd.

Cuthbert Heath House, 151-154 Minories, London EC3N 1NR.
Tel: 01-488 2488. Telex: 885280 888088.
INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS
REINSURANCE BROKERS AND UNDERWRITING AGENTS

FINANCIAL NEWS

Valor rebounds to over £1m and hints at better things to come

By Tony Muv

Valor still has a long way to go before it again reaches the 1974 profit level of £2.6m, but it is getting into its stride. Pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 are 28 per cent up at £1.07m on turnover 16 per cent higher at £30.6m. Earnings a share are 6.67p against 5.74p.

Mr Michael Montague, the chairman of this cooker and heating group, believes that the rise in profits for the current year will be "more substantial". In view of this, the board is making its first increase in the group's dividend that they have felt it wise to make during a difficult domestic and international period. The total for the year is raised from 2.73p to 2.89p gross. The board believes that it will be justified in an increase "of greater scope" when considering the interim for the current year.

Although it took the hint, the market left the shares unchanged at 30p to give a yield of 9.6 per cent. The board, both at home and overseas, are doing well. The big exception is the



Mr Michael Montague, chairman of Valor.

gas cooker factory at Liverpool, which, while slowly improving, is still far away from the profit potential, which the board knows to be "reasonably attainable". Losses at the factory topped £500,000 over the

year, but Mr Montague is now forecasting a recovery at the plant. "We are hopeful that it will break even this year, and at the worst only show a slight loss", he says.

A range of new products has been well received. Order books and the level of inquiries are much better than last year, and in fact the group's forecasts for the current year are based on the "very substantially increased" orders, particularly exports, already secured. Over the past year, about 10 per cent of group turnover was accounted for by exports. These are up 21 per cent so far this year, and over the full term Mr Montague is looking for an increase in the group's exports business of "at least 25 per cent".

At half time, the group's profits edged ahead from £203,000 to £259,000 but things were looking a little better. Mr Montague said that optimism must be tempered with caution when looking ahead but the second produced a jump of 29 per cent in profits to £313,000.

Dobson Park now has £10m in sight

By Ashley Druker

Much better than its own expectations, Dobson Park Industries, the Nottingham-based mining and specialised engineering, turns in taxable profits for the half to April 2 last increased 9 per cent to £4.1m. And with the encouraging general pattern of trade, profits for the final stage to October 2 will be at least the same as that for the opening 12, says Mr Jim Ward, chairman. This if achieved, would give Dobson Park a first-time £10m for the full year. In the preceding 12 months profits rose 13 per cent to a record £9,08m.

Meantime, shareholders collect an interim dividend raised from 1.1p gross to 1.38p.

Much of the credit for the improved result goes to Kango division which turned in a substantial profit increase, up from £486,000 to £596,000, improved exports and maintained mining machinery sales. Export sales of the Kango hammer have been particularly good while home sales have also held up well. Production levels have been increased and further investment will lead to more productive capacity.

Elsewhere, exports and sales of spares have helped the mining machinery division to maintain production at good levels. Industrial products were hit by public spending cuts but the second-half should pick up "substantially". This is particularly so as the customer products demand is even more seasonal this year, says Mr Ward. Though profit of the overseas subsidiaries fell in the half, it is now on the cards that the full-time output for the last year's total of £773,000. Overall sales in the half just past rose 16 per cent to £46.6m.

Recovery leaves A. Cohen just short of a record

The recovery at A. Cohen, the metal refiner and maker of non-ferrous alloys, continued over the second half and just failed to match the record £2.28m brought in for 1974. The group has finished 1976 with a 43 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £2.1m. Turnover went up from £29.7m to £40.6m to give margins of 5.25 per cent against 5.01 per cent. Earnings a share are raised from 33.3p to 45.3p, while the gross dividend is lifted from 5.66p to 7.56p.

Fitzwillton sells off construction side

Fitzwillton, the Dublin-based conglomerate undergoing a heavy rationalization programme, has agreed to sell its construction division for a total of £5.7m to a company controlled by the division's chief executive, Mr James McCarthy. The price—£2.1m short of the division's £7.8m value—will be satisfied by a cash payment of £4.2m and the issue of 14 per cent loan stock. William Mallinson & Denny Mott the timber group has a 20 per cent stake in the purchasing company, J. S. McCarthy.

Why Clyde Petroleum wants Lyon & Lyon

Clyde Petroleum's formal offer for Lyon & Lyon explains why the purchase of the company—which is being fought by the Lyon board—is so important to Clyde. Mr W. Gibson Biggart, Clyde's chairman, refers to the annual meeting in May when he told shareholders that Clyde had been advised by the Stock Exchange that a listing for the company's shares was premature at present. Prospects for obtaining a listing and starting the payment of dividends would in the view

No respite for hard-pressed Tomlinsons

No ending to Tomlinsons' hard labour can yet be seen. The carpet group reports that the key home market will probably stay tough "and continuance of the present profit trend depends on exports". This is little comfort. In the 25 weeks to March 25 sales rose by 28 per cent to £5.63m but pre-tax profits were only £42,000 against £22,000. Before recession set in, the group had 1972-73 pre-tax profits of approaching £1m; last year they were only £235,000. For the present, Tomlinsons continues to build up successful export sales.

Airflow Streamlines more than doubles

In the 12 months to February 28, pre-tax profits of Airflow Streamlines more than doubled to £636,000, compared with £252,000 in the preceding year. Turnover expanded from £4.99m to £7.68m. The total gross payment is being raised from 6.15p to 6.77p; earnings per share were up from 4.58p to 11.5p. The board expects a "satisfactory result" for the current year.

Yearling bond rate is unchanged

The coupon on Local Authority bonds is unchanged this week at 9 1/2 per cent at 100. The biggest borrowers over one year are Colchester at £1.5m, Fife, and Portsmouth with £1m apiece. Haringey heads the two year list with a £1m borrowing at 11 1/2 per cent, and is also raising £1m over three years at 12 1/2 per cent.

Chloride Europe in van of 30 pc jump

By Adrienne Gleeson

Economic recovery in Europe added power to the performance of the battery-making Chloride Group in the year to end-March. Improving demand for plastics and metals and, towards the end of the year, for industrial batteries, resulted in a 30 per cent gain in the profits of Chloride Europe which was a "significant" factor behind the overall 37 per cent improvement at the pre-tax level to £26.4m.

Chloride America—which produced 16.5 per cent of trading profits—and Chloride Overseas—which produced 35.5 per cent—also did better, though the former continued to be affected by the low level of ordering and tight competitive position in batteries in the United States and Canada. Of the total profits, 58 per cent was earned outside the United Kingdom. Exchange gains contributed just over £1m to the pre-tax total.

Forecast at the time of the 15.7 per cent issue in November, the group's dividend for the year has been increased by 25 per cent, with Treasury permission, to 7.08p per share gross. So the yield of the shares at last night's closing price of 107p is 6.6 per cent.

Despite the rights issue proceeds, the group's borrowings rose last year, to £54.7m at the balance sheet date as against £42.2m 12 months earlier. Rather less than half of the increase related to the effect of exchange rate changes on the value of overseas borrowings. Other factors behind the increase in borrowings were the increase in Chloride's capital spending—up from £11.8m to £19.3m—and in the working capital requirements, which rose by £21m. Gearing at the year-end was 57 per cent (net gearing 47 per cent), while the group considers "satisfactory".

The outlook for the current year is clouded by a dispute at two of the company's 15 plants; but Mr Michael Edwards, chairman, said yesterday that the group was in a "favourable overall position".

Tobenoil part in GEI Int upswing

By Our Financial Staff

GEI International, the specialist engineering group, has duly completed its seventh successive year of record profits. It looks set for a further increase in the current period to end-March next.

While sales grew by a quarter last year, margins widened to push pre-tax profits ahead by 37 per cent to a peak £4.14m. To an extent, the upturn stemmed from a good contribution from the Tobenoil packaging machinery interests acquired for £5m in the autumn of 1975. After a somewhat flat contribution during the first period under GEI's control, packaging machinery profits advanced by 27 per cent in 1976-77.

But the real impetus, as Mr Thomas Keany, chairman, points out, has come from the group's determination to step outside the dull United Kingdom engineering market. Exports, both direct and indirect, are believed to contribute over half the profits total against about 38 per cent in the previous year.

The overseas subsidiaries currently make only about 5 per cent of total pre-tax, but their input is expected to double within five years before GEI adds the two European companies which it is now in the throes of acquiring.

On a divisional basis, it looks as if the brightest stars last year were the Midland Steel Products interests, manufacturing components for the commercial vehicle market, and the Midland Bright division. But while European activities should continue to provide this year's spur, GEI is preparing for a gradual upturn in the domestic market.

Capital spending this year will be maintained at about £2m, bringing the total for the past six years to almost £9m. Net cash balances at the year end fell from £4.9m to £4.0m, net tangible assets grew by a fifth.

The shares rose 4p yesterday to 66p, and the total dividend is hoisted by the maximum to 5.7p gross per share.

Concrete and the Sandis

'Bison' reinforces defence

The decision by National Chemical Industries, of Saudi Arabia, to step once again into the United Kingdom to buy technical expertise is perhaps no surprise. But its choice of Concrete, the "Bison" manufacturer of structural pre-cast sections, to follow Beyer Peacock into its portfolio of acquisitions raised more than a few eyebrows in the City last week.

Like Beyer, the Concrete board is preparing stiff resistance but the success of the Saudi approach will rest heavily on the attitude of Bryant Holdings, which owns a 28 per cent stake in Concrete.

NCI appears to have pitched attractive terms. Its £10.2m cash bid offers a 50p premium on the pre-bid price of 60p and the remuneration for Bryant to settle must be quite strong. The bulk of it is stake, after all, was purchased at 75p per share.

But Bryant, which is under a Department of Trade investigation and whose chairman Mr Chris Bryant received summonses connected with two charges of conspiracy last March, seems to have forged strong links with Concrete and may think twice about passing the stake on.

Referring to Concrete in the last published accounts, the Bryant chairman told shareholders "we have benefited by continued close cooperation between our two companies and are now opening up new activities".

The Saudi Arabian company, on the other hand, can naturally offer the prospect of a strong workload in the Middle East—where Concrete has yet to establish a commanding presence—and full autonomy for the board. But the immediate reaction in the City was why bother to make a full bid? Why not go for licensing agreements, a pre-cast

section is scarcely a readily transport commodity?

The surprise was exaggerated by Concrete's erratic "profit" record. After what the market has described as Concrete's "fat years in 1960s", the group suffered as a result of Roman Point disaster in 1969.

Pre-tax profits in the year to end-March 1967 were £1.08m and were little changed years later. Strong efforts have been made, however, for pre-cast section multi-storey car parking has been part of the answer—but although profits for 1975-76 to £1.72m they were 14 per cent in the following six months and the grim climate of the UK construction industry made it necessary to declare redundancies.

The answer to the Saudi interest, conversely, may rest quite outside the immediate sphere. The clue lies in the board's immediate defensive riposte that assets are currently valued at 120-140p per share. This compares with net tangible assets of 64.8p share in the last published balance sheet. The "discovery" estimate of 109p per share, explain why Mr Terry Maher's P. picked up a near 25 per cent stake in Concrete before selling it on to Bryant.

Concrete is understood to own around 100 acres of land adjoining Heathrow airport. It is, as it seems likely, plan difficulties for the Government to expropriate existing airports rather than develop a greenfield site to accommodate sprawling flow of international air traffic, land could yield very attractive valuations.

Ray Maug

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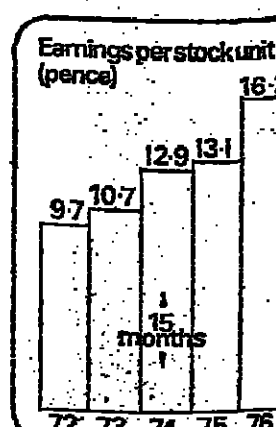
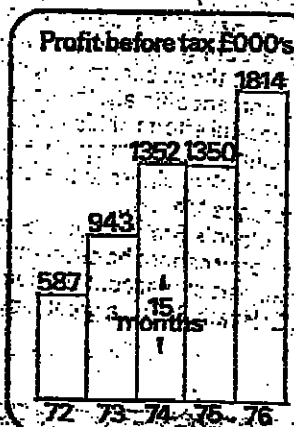
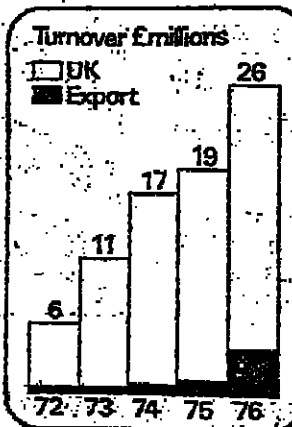
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